

Important States of India

Part I

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We beg to lay this most important and an official unique reference book before the public in general and State people in particular at the time while Political Destiny of whole of India is getting its shape according to the necessity

The rapid Political and economic movements of the world have awakened Indian Public and every moment brings new expectations for the benefit of the country. The Princes also are well aware of their future and they are working in that direction for the good of all concerned. We think that this is the most proper time for the publication of books like this and hope that this effort will be praised by all

The arrangement of the book is in alphabetical order which will be convenient to the readers. The Gujarat and Kathiawar States including some of Rajputana are included in this book

We heartily thank all our well wishers, supporters, sympathizers, advertisers and friends for their co-operation towards this publication and hope they will be kind enough to continue it in future

EDITORS

Most Humbly and Very Respectfully
Dedicated to



HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA
SAHEB BAHADUR OF IDAR

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BARODA.



H H THE MAHARAJA SAHEB OF BARODA

THE Baroda State consists of 5 territorial blocks which lie scattered all over Gujarat, one of India's historic tracts, which has an area of about 63,000 sq miles. Thus this State forms only a little more than an eighth of this area, but its different districts are so spread

over all parts of Gujarat, that they represent completely the different aspects of its composite life, its physiography, its linguistic and ethnical variations. Baroda State is one of the most dispersed of territories, and its



THE DEWAN SAHAB OF BARODA

interlacing particularly with British India and other Indian States in Kathiawad has contributed to the complications of its administration. This dispersal, though not so evident in the mainland of Gujarat where the three main districts lie, becomes acute in Kathiawad, where the territories of the Gaekwad are described as a "veritable archipelago." In a sense demographically, however, this dispersal has made for richness in its

human material and the wide range of interest that their study reveals. Part of Gujarat, all the different sections of the State share its variegated life and the consciousness of its comprehensive unity. For inspite of the differences in its physiography, agricultural conditions, and the contrasts of culture and social development, Gujarat may be said to have "an ecological unity." It has well defined frontiers, and although the contours of its land widely differ, providing in this State, even within its limited extent, all the diversity of sea and plain and upland, and the soil and climatic variations are equally sharply divided,—the combination of natural influences as well as the incidents of its history, have helped to produce something like a discernible and distinctive mental make-up for the Gujarati people. Their lan-

guage has freely received influences from all sides and shows now the least dialectical differences as compared to the other great regional languages—a most remarkable phenomenon. Their art and architecture similarly, shows a like receptivity to outside influences. In respect of their social composition, the multitude of castes and sub castes, the most diversified in India, has been preserved intact without making for any positive disunity. Its extensive sea coast line has helped to produce in Gujarat a race “bristling with enterprise and initiative.”

The southern district of the State, Navsari, lies on either side of the Tapti, forming a mosaic with the villages of the Surat collectorate, and separated from Baroda district by the territories of Rewa Kantha and the Broach district. The Western talukas of the district the Rasti—are flourishing and prosperous. Its rich soil grows the best varieties of cotton, fruit and sugar cane. The rivers Tapti, Ambika and Purna drain it from east to west. The eastern parts of the district forming the talukas of Songadh and Vyara are called the Rani and comprise areas of forests and backward people—the raniparaj.

The river Narmada with its picturesque banks forms the southern boundary of the Baroda district. Almost in the centre lies the capital of the State, Baroda, a city of palaces and stately public buildings, of parks and recreation grounds, of broad well laid roads and beautiful avenues, of colleges, schools and hospitals.

Further to the north, beyond Ahmedabad lies the Mehsana district with its historic towns of Patan and Sidhpur, and its numerous archaeological ruins and monuments of historical interest, and Mehsana, the district headquarters, is an important junction on the B B & C I Rly line to Malva and Rajputana and has a considerable future before it.

In Kathiawad, far to the West, isolated and dispersed territories form the districts of Amreli and Okhamandal. The central block of Amreli district is fertile and well cultivated except in the south where it touches the Gir

Okhamandal has its headquarters at Dwarka, an ancient place of pilgrimage sacred to the Hindus. The country is bleak and barren "where even stunted trees are bowed low by the subservient winds in obeisance to Dwarka's lord." In recent years however unsuspected sources of wealth have been discovered. The port of Okha, with its excellent harbour, has become one of the principal ports of Kathiawar and west India, and great industrial concerns like the Associated Cement Company and the Tata Chemicals have been established here. These developments promise to turn one of the most bleak and barren areas of the State into one of the richest.

Population —

The State of Baroda has a total area of 8,176.12 sq miles with a population of 28,55,010 of whom 14,72,909 are males and 13,82,101 females. The average density per mile comes to 349.

This population is distributed among 2,896 villages and 64 towns. The general distribution of population by communities shows that of the total population 25,65,056 are Hindus, 2,23,610 Muslims, 9,182 Christians, 46,866 Jains, 6,930 Parsis and the rest are miscellaneous communities including tribes who have been showing a marked tendency to return themselves as Hindus. Thus almost all the religious denominations of India are found in the State. Spread of modern education, and of liberal ideas is steadily softening the edges and angularities of different faiths and the resulting broad sense of tolerance reduces the chances of religious tension which was never acute in the State.

History —

The extraordinary configuration of the Baroda territory, its diversity and fragmentation, is the legacy of two centuries of military exploits, internecine wars and financial and administrative complications. When Pilajirao, the founder of the fortunes of the Gaekwad

family captured Songadh, the hill fortress which commands the southern approaches to Gujarat, he laid the foundation of a new power, on the ruins of the Mughal Empire. The establishment of a principality at Songadh, its extension to include the territory which now forms the Baroda district, and the defeat of the other Maratha chieftains who disputed the supremacy of the Gaekwad's power, was the work of Pilajirao during his brief career of eleven years between 1721 and 1732. The achievements of his successor, the able and energetic Damajirao (1732-68) were equally brilliant. He completed the conquest of Gujarat, extended the Maratha power into Kathiawar, and so strengthened his position, that he was able to offer resistance to the Peshwas who were governing the Maratha Empire in the name of the Satara kings, descendants of the great Shivaji, and with whom Damajirao had his differences. Damajirao ceded to the Peshwas half of Gujarat and of all future conquests. In the course of the next half of the century the ceded territory passed into British hands, and now form the districts of British Gujarat. This fact explains the dispersed situation of the State territories.

The 50 years, 1768-1818, following the death of Damajirao, was a period of wars and quarrels of succession which followed the death of almost every Gaekwad and gave occasions to the rising power of the East India Company to establish political relations with Baroda.

Important names of rulers such as those of Sayajirao II, Ganpatrao, and Khanderao may be mentioned in the line of Gaekwad rulers. In 1802, 1805 and 1817 Baroda entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the British Government, and it continues even to day.

During thirty years of his rule Sayajirao II was much respected by his people for his courtly and considerate behaviour, his tenacity of purpose, his vigour and self assertion.

In Ganpatrao's reign, 1847-56, infanticide and the sale of children was prohibited, and the land for the

B B & C I Railway was ceded to the British Government. Khanderao's reign (1856-70) is memorable for the service he rendered to the British at the time of the Mutiny, for a number of fine public buildings, for the construction of the first railway line in the State between Miyagam and Dabhoi and for reforms which brought regularity in the administration of justice and of land revenue. But rapid deterioration set in during the short period of five years of Malharrao's rule from 1870 to 75.

Owing to misgovernment of the State Malharrao had to be deposed in 1875 and Jamnabai, the widow of Khanderao, was invited to adopt a son who might ascend the Gadi, and Sir T. Madhavrao one of the ablest administrators of those times was entrusted with the administration. Jamnabai adopted Gopalrao, a descendant of a brother of Damajirao, who, as Sayajirao II, ascended the gadi on 27th May 1875.

Sayajirao Gaekwad —

The sixty four years that this remarkable ruler was on the throne is the Golden Period in the history of Baroda State. His achievements were numerous a scientific system of land revenue survey and settlement was introduced, great departments of State formed; social laws framed and enacted, compulsory education enforced, important programmes of rural reconstruction and industrial development carried out, the social services of the State extended, a net work of railways laid, the port of Okha developed, and above all a tradition of just and good government firmly established. In these numerous and great achievements, His Highness was assisted by a succession of able ministers but the inspiration was always his. Modern Baroda is the great and fitting memorial to Sayajirao. H. H. Sayajirao died in 1939. The people who were so well served by him deeply mourned his death. The present ruler H. H. Maharaja Pratapsinh who ascended the Baroda Gadi on February 7, 1939, is a grandson and

a worthy successor to H H Sir Sayajirao of revered memory, and a young ruler of many attainments

The Present Ruler —

His Highness completed his primary education in the Princes School, Baroda Thereafter he spent some time in the Rajkumar College at Rajkot and a public school at Eastbourne in England He passed his matriculation examination from the Baroda High School and read for the Intermediate Arts examination in the Deccan College, Poona

His administrative training began in 1929 in the Revenue department which, after all, is the centre of the whole administration in a predominantly agricultural State like Baroda and which offers many opportunities of coming into the closest contact with the people Starting from the lowest rung of the departmental ladder he filled appointments of increasing responsibility and thus came in direct touch with the people over whom he was to rule In addition to this intensive administrative training, he received instruction in History Economics and other allied subjects, the knowledge of which is so essential to a prospective ruler In course of time he became Karma Sachiv and a member of the State Executive Council and also worked as Secretary to his grand father, His late Highness Maharaja Sayajirao His Highness held this post for about eight years with great distinction Here he mastered the details of the working and policy of all the departments in the State and enforced strict discipline in the administration He had also occasions to deputize for his grand father on important ceremonial occasions, and thus became familiar with their routine

The general education which His Highness thus received and the high traditions of the great Royal House in which he has been brought up, have indeed made him a very worthy recipient of a noble heritage Keen on village uplift and extremely sympathetic to the needs of the agricultural population he immediately

on accession to the gridi reduced permanently the land revenue by Rs. 2 lakhs and donated a crore of rupees to perpetuate the memory of his distinguished predecessor by creating a trust to be utilised for various purposes connected with the betterment of the people.

He is a great sportsman and a patron of learning and arts. The foundation of a Chair in the Benares Hindu University for the studies of Indian culture is one of the many items that show his abiding interest in cultural activities. He is very simple, almost spartan in his habits and has been associating himself with the administration even while he was the Yuvraj. The distinguished traditions of Baroda will not only be maintained but will be enhanced a great deal under his watchful and benign regime.

The system of Government —

The Ruler is the source of all authority and power in the State, but he has delegated wide powers to the Executive Council, the Legislative Assembly and the judiciary, reserving to himself only important questions and those involving policy. The revenues of the State are regarded as public funds and the Privy Purse or Khangi which includes all expenditure on the Palace forms an item in the annual budget about 9% of the revenues of the State.

The Government of Baroda Act 1929 defines the constitution, the functions and powers of the Executive Council, the legislature and the judiciary. The Executive Council consists of the Minister called Dewan and three Naib Dewans, one of whom is a non-official. Each member of the Council has a vote which he exercises in person or by proxy. The Minister and his colleagues are assisted by a Secretariat, the Huzur Central Office organised on the system prevailing in British India. The entire administration is carried on through well organised departments.

The Dhara Sabha or the Legislative Council was constituted in 1908. It consisted of 26 members of whom 10 were elected members. It possessed neither financial nor legislative powers and its resolutions were in the form of recommendations. The Government of Baroda Act of 1939 however reconstituted the Council on a broad basis of representation and with extended powers. It now consists of 60 members of whom 37 are elected by constituencies on a wide franchise. Every person who holds land assessed at not less than Rs. 30 or pays income tax, or owns immovable property worth Rs. 1,000 or more or has passed the matriculation or an equivalent examination is entitled to vote at the elections and to stand as a candidate. Of these 37, 10 members represent industry, commerce, labour and the co-operative movement as special interests. The other 23 members of the Dhara Sabha consist of 6 officials and 17 nominated gentlemen, of whom only one is official.

The Dewan is the President. There is also a deputy president, who after the first 3 years will be elected by the Dhara Sabha. Three parliamentary secretaries are appointed to assist the councillors in the Dhara Sabha work and a Dhara Sabha secretariat directly under the Dewan has been formed.

The Dhara Sabha has the power to initiate and pass legislation, to discuss and vote the budget and to ask questions and move resolutions on matters of public interest subject to certain limitations. All legislation requires the assent of the Maharaja.

The judiciary is separate from and independent of the legislature and the Executive.

The policy and the spirit on which the constitution is worked will be evident from the following noteworthy features of the new constitution —

1. It is based primarily on the complete identity of interest between the Ruler and the ruled and among all sections of the people.

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- 2 The electorates are joint and not communal, Government having firmly rejected all suggestions regarding fixing of constituencies on communal lines
3. There is a majority of elected members in the Dhara Sabha
- 4 An elected member of the Dhara Sabha has been appointed as one of the Ministers in the Executive Council, and as such is empowered to bring his influence to bear on the whole administration.
- 5 Three Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed from the non-official members of the Dhara Sabha though the Committee had suggested only two
- 6 The deputy president is also a non-official member

Location —

The territories of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwad of Baroda lie between $20^{\circ} 05'$ and $24^{\circ} 9'$ N. latitude and between $69^{\circ} 5'$ and $73^{\circ} 59'$ E longitude. These territories are interspersed with others owning British or other sovereignty, from the northern extremity of the Thana district of the Bombay presidency in the south, to Palanpur in the north, and from the western limit of the Nasik district in the south-east to the extreme north-west of Kathiawad

Natural divisions

In the scheme of natural divisions, drawn up for the whole of India for census purposes, Baroda State is included in the natural division Gujarat, which may be divided into two main blocks, namely, Cutch and Kathiawad, or peninsular Gujarat, in which the Amreli district of the Baroda State is situated, and mainland Gujarat, which includes the Gujarat districts of Mehsana, Baroda, and Navsari, which may be further subdivided into north, central, and south Gujarat, each of which has its own peculiarities

The territories of the Baroda State in peninsular Gujarat, have, on account of their detached position and large sea-board, developed and preserved peculiar traits and characteristics in population which is stalwart and adventurous. In Mehsana district, and around the town of Patan, the ancient capital of Gujarat in north Gujarat on the mainland, are located original settlements like Vadnagar, Khadat, Visnagar and Modhera, from which many of the Gujarat castes take their names. The four British districts of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, Kaira Broach and Surat are situated in close proximity to Baroda territory.

Rock systems —

The rocks met with in the Baroda State are referable to the following systems and groups, arranged in a descending order —

VI Recent and post-Tertiary — These are the alluvial and sub-aerial formations, and cover a large part of the State. Though agriculturally very important, geologically they are of a very minor value. These occupy mostly the central or western side of the country.

V Eocene (Nummulitic) system — The representatives of this system lie mostly near to and in the valleys of the Tapi and Kim rivers.

IV The Deccan-Trap system — The volcanic formations, which make up this great series of rocks of Upper Cretaceous age, lie mainly in the Navsari district.

III The Bogh series — Rocks referable to this group, are formed only in the southern parts of Sankheda, and along the eastern boundaries of Baghodia and the Savli talukas of the Baroda district.

II Champaner system — This is an important group of apparently Azoic rocks. These constitute a distinctly sub-metamorphic series of rocks including Quartzites, Schists, Slates, and Limestone which is only met with in the northern and the south eastern parts of Sankheda taluka. In the northern part of the taluka, they are

seen in several hill ridges, which stretch east-west, close to the boundary between the Baroda and the Panch Mahals and Narukota territories

I The Archaean Rocks—These are Granites and Gneisses, with associated crystalline limestones, occupying two areas of moderate extent in the Sankheda taluka, and a few small, and, with the exception of two, unimportant inliers which show here and there, through the great alluvial spread. A third Archaean area, of small extent, occurs far north in the bed of the Sabarmati river at Virpur, in Vijapur taluka

The successions of geological formations met with in the Kathiawar territories of the Baroda State is shown in descending order —

III Recent } Alluvial and sub-aerial deposits ;
 } Mihiolite ,

II Tertiary } Dwarka beds ,
 } Guj beds ,

I Cretaceous—Deccan Trap series

Of these, Deccan-Trap Series occupies by far the largest area superficially, and is much the most important formation in every way, being in many places of great thickness. It occupies the coastal plateau of the peninsula, and excepting for a few small local patches of river alluvium, forms the whole of the Damnagar, Amreli and Dhari talukas, while a few inliers of it protrude over the surface of the mihiolite in the Kodinar taluka. It occupies also the Ishweria type of the Ratanpur peta taluka

The Tertiary, Guj and Dwarka beds are met with only in the Okhamandal taluka

The Post-Tertiary mihiolite occurs only in the Kodinar taluka, together with a small extent of alluvium close to the coast. The largest show of alluvium in the Baroda territory is in the Ratanpur peta taluka, the whole of which, with the exception of the TAPA of

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The soils of the Amreli district (Okhamandal excepted) may be classed under two main heads, Black and Gorat, but the Gorat and Black soils of this district are inferior to the similar soils of Baroda and Navsari districts

The soil in the northern half of Okhamandal is light red alternating with a tolerably rich black mould. Along the whole of the coastline it is sandy and unproductive, but inland, it is fairly fruitful. The soil in the southern portion is also light red with but few fertile ingredients, and in many places it is rocky and barren.

The climate —

The character of the Kharif crops and the good prospect of the Rabi depend upon the regularity and seasonableness of the rainfall from the middle of June or the beginning of July to the middle of October. The late showers of October help the spring crops also. Satisfactory maturity of the crops, however, depends upon the September and October showers.

Small irrigation works are met with all over the Raj, especially, what are called Paddy tanks. The number of such tanks in each division varies with the nature of the staple crops, the soil, and the intelligence, skill, and capacity of the cultivator.

The climate of Baroda proper, that is the Gujarat districts is very different at the opposite ends of the State, the southern mahals having a climate that is decidedly moist, though less so, than that of the typical west coast or Konkān, while the northern mahals have a dry climate, nearly approaching that of southern Rajputana. The rainfall in the south averages about 58 inches. Around Baroda, it is 38 inches, and in the northern division, the average is as low as 32 inches.

It may be said in general that the weather is dry and hot in the hot season, which commences in March and ends in June, the hottest months being May and June. The climate during the rainy season—from July to

Ishwerra (four miles to the south-west) lies within the great belt of coast alluvium, which stretches from the Gulf of Cambay to the Ran of Cutch. The alluvium of the Okhamandal Ran covers an area of some size about 18 square miles, while the alluvium tract of Aramda, at the northern end of the Okhamandal taluka, is also too extensive to pass unnoticed.

Incline of land —

The greater part of the State lies within the area of the coastal band of alluvium which has been formed by the encroachment on the shallow Gulf of Cambay, of the detrital deposits brought down by the many rivers, large and small, which drain the province of Gujarat, the western slopes of Malwa, and the southern parts of Rajputana. The upward slope of alluvial band, from the sea board outward is very gradual so that, except where wind-blown accumulations of loam or sand makes small local eminences here and there the surface of the country appears to be a flat level plain. It is only as the eastern side of the alluvial flat is approached that it is interrupted by occasional low hills, or by surface irregularities formed by the courses of small rivers.

The drainage of the Gujarat divisions of the Baroda State falls westward into the Gulf of Cambay, in the Arabian Sea, which receives such a vast amount of silt brought down by the large rivers that it is rapidly being silted up as is shown by the present conditions of the harbours of Surat, Broach, and Cambay. Not two centuries ago, these sea-ports were visited by fleets of shipping of the ordinary size of the traders of those days. Now they are with difficulty reached by vessels of 30 tons burden.

The four principal rivers falling into the Gulf of Cambay are the Sabarmati, the Mahi, the Narmada, and the Tapti, all large rivers, flowing in parts of their course through Baroda territory. Of much smaller size are the Dhadhar between Mahi and Narmada, the Kim,

between the Narmada and the Tapti, and the Mindhola the Purna, and the Ambika, to the south of the Tapti. The only river of any importance in the Amreli district is the Shetrunji, which rises in the highest parts of the Gir forests and drains the central part of the division. The smaller ones are the Raval and the Dhatarwadi of the Dhari taluka, the Singuwada, which divides the Kodinar taluka into two unequal lobes, and the Rangoli of the Damnagar taluka.

The soil —

The inhabitants of the Baroda State are for the most part agriculturists. The principal crops are cotton, tobacco, oil-seeds, juwar, bajri, rice, and pulses. The coastline and the western talukas of the Navsari district are very fertile and yield garden produce, but the south-eastern parts are inferior in fertility, owing to rocks and mountains in some places. The Amreli district though inferior in fertility, has many fertile tracts especially in the Amreli, Damnagar, and Kodinar talukas.

The soil in the whole of the State is alluvial, except in the hilly parts of Navsari and Amreli districts, and in the south eastern corner of the Baroda district, where it is mostly formed by disintegration of the underlying rocks. The alluvial soils of the Baroda State may be roughly divided into, (1) Gorat or sandy loam, (2) Kali, or black, and (3) Besar, or that formed by the mixture of the two. The rock formed soils are, for the most part black, but where they have come into contact with alluvial soils, they have formed a variety of Besar. The soils of the Navsari and the Baroda districts may principally be classed as Gorat, Black and Besar. As a rule, the black soil of the Navsari district is far superior to the soil of similar kinds found in the other districts. BHATHA lands or lands found in the beds of river from alluvial deposits are often found in the Navsari district, and are very productive. In the Mehsana district, the soil is mostly of the high sandy kind. Black soil is met with, but only in patches in parts of the district.

October—is hot, moist and relaxing. During the cold season, which commences in November and ends in February, the climate is dry and cool. The coldest months are generally December and January.

During the hot weather months the average maximum temperature is about 104°F , the maximum daily temperature ranging usually from 98°F to 115°F .

The average minimum temperature during this hot season is about 74°F and it usually ranges from 60°F to 84°F .

During the rainy season, the average maximum temperature is 89°F , while the average minimum temperature is about 76°F .

During the cold weather, the maximum daily temperature ranges from 70°F to 100°F and the daily minimum temperature ranges from 30°F to 67°F .

Miscellaneous —

The territories of the Baroda State are usually situated inland except at two prominent places in Kathiawar, one at Rupen in Okha, and the other at Mul Dwarka in Kodinar, and at one place in Gujarat, viz Billimora. The Okha port has considerably developed during recent years and cargo steamers from foreign countries regularly call at this port.

Billimora in the Navsari district, on the B. B. & C. I. Ry. mainline, is the only important river-port in the Baroda State in Gujarat. An old port, it flourished before the advent of the railways.

Of metals, only two are met with in the Baroda State, iron and gold, the former in fair and the latter in very small quantities. Considerable quantities of slag heaps near Phudeda, Mehsana district, Nani Naroli, Navsari district, and Samdhi, Baroda district, testify the existence in ancient times of large smelting works.

Traces of gold are to be found in the high banks of the Heran river, a little south-east by south, from Sankheda, in the Baroda district. But the quantity procurable is too small to justify workings.

Of the chemicals, pyrites, bauxite sea-weeds, for the production of iodine, salt, natural soda, Fuller's earth, are worth mentioning, and these are fairly scattered all over the State.

Quartz sand, suitable for the manufacture of some kind or other of glass, occurs in several parts of the State. There are large deposits of china, clay, mostly on the right bank of the Sabarmati river.

Calcareous materials, for the manufacture of lime and cement is available in large quantities in the beds and banks of the river. Kim, near Dwarka, and near Aramda in Okhamandal.

Marble of different colours is available near Motipura in Sankheda taluka near Wadeli on the Heran river banks, and in the Dhari taluka.

Building stone is also available in different parts of the State.

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PLACES OF INTEREST

THE CITY OF BARODA

A tour of the Western India will not be complete without a visit to Baroda. The city of Baroda situated, on the Vishwamitri river, has a population and area of 1,53,301 persons and 8.74 sq miles respectively, and lies 244 miles north of Bombay on the B. B. & C. I. Rly. of which it is an important junction. Situated among the plains of Gujarat, it is the centre of a network of the G. B. S. Rlys. opening out vast territories in the interior.

The earliest discovered record about this ancient city is on a copper plate dated A. D. 812. The ancient name of the city was Chandanavati from Raja Chandan. This name was afterwards changed to Viravati, that is, the abode of warriors. Subsequently the name came to be Vatodar, i. e., in the heart of Vata or Burr trees, and, as a fact, these trees abound in the vicinity of the city, and from that it has at present naturally come to be known as Vadodara. In the earliest times of which we have any record, the city extended only over that portion which is at present comprised within its four walls now dismantled to accommodate the increasing needs of the population, and the country outside it was a mass of fields, fences, wells, and temples and mosques, lying scattered all about. It was after it came into possession of the Gaekwars and became their capital that it rose in importance. Suburbs were formed outside the walled town as the population increased. Of these the principal ones are Anandpura, Fatehpura and Shiyapura named after the past rulers of the Gaekwar family and Rtopura and Babryipura named after the past Dewans. Even the roads and colonies were not laid out on the scientific methods of the present times. But now it is one of the important

cities of Gujarat with wide asphalt roads running upto about 38 miles, palaces, gardens, offices, temples, recreation grounds and orderly streets, impressive housing colonies and a number of important industrial concerns

To the visitors and tourists who are fond of sight seeing there are beautiful buildings, palaces, avenues, parks and playgrounds. For visitors with artistic inclination, there are a number of beauty spots varying in picturesqueness. To a student, who is in search of modernity in administration, education, and industry, Baroda as the capital of a front rank progressive and prosperous State will furnish ample materials in its administrative machinery, educational institutions and industry based on private enterprise encouraged by plans of State aid.

Visitors will notice the happy blending of the old and new ways of life and its expression in the corporate town planning which is the pride of Gujarat and to which it has set a great example.

As the visitor comes out of the Baroda Railway Station he is greeted by the sight of the grand statue of His late Highness in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of his reign which constituted a golden era in the history of Baroda State.

Department of Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. To stimulate agricultural activities on modern scientific lines an important department of Agriculture is established.

Sections under which the work of the department is dealt with are (1) agriculture in reference to field crops, the main section dealing with field experiment, seed production and propaganda, (2) agricultural research covering agricultural chemistry, plant breeding and plant pathology, (3) veterinary and livestock im-

provement, (4) horticulture, (5) rural reconstruction, (6) agricultural engineering, (7) agricultural marketing, (8) agricultural education

History—1887 to 1909 —

Interest on the part of the State in agricultural development in the widest application of the word dates from as far back as 1887, when any attention to this was but in its infancy in British India and unheard of in other Indian States. It took the form of the initiation of an Agricultural class controlled firstly by the Education department, and subsequently by the Revenue department conducted at Hira Bagh. The Baroda Model Farm to which the class was transferred came into being in 1894. It then covered some 33 acres which still constitute part of the present farm. It was controlled in the early days by Sir Thomas Middleton, at that time Professor of Botany at Baroda College. The period 1887 to 1909 may be classified as the genesis of the department. During that period it was a branch of the Revenue department. Agricultural education, as given at Baroda, was extended to the formation of what are now classed as "bias" schools, giving a general education with a strong bias towards agriculture. These were started for the benefit of the backward Raniparaj farmers associated with the hinterlands of Navsari district. There were three of which the one at Songadh, together with its small farm, carried on into the beginning of the next period. Agricultural effort was chiefly associated with the trial of exotics. But little was done on the Farm. Most of the experiments were of the nature of spasmodic trials of different crop varieties on farmers' fields. The work was devoted to cotton, tobacco and groundnut. It is probable, however, that the strong admixture of Upland Georgian under the name of Kadaya found in Kodinar taluka today, the spread of tobacco cultivation, then restricted to Chharoda, into Melsina and the first appearances of groundnut in Kathiwar are directly traceable to this work done in



A CONCRETE SCHEME for rural reconstruction

In the important work of rural development which leads us, cement concrete by virtue of its inherent qualities such as cleanliness, durability, fire resistance, etc., will undoubtedly play an important part. This unique and ingenious material has the advantage of possessing long life without entailing any maintenance charges, thus making it the ideal economical building material. It is particularly valuable for housing grants of a chambers, well-surroundings, drinking fountains, market places, etc., where cleanliness of vital importance.

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THE CONCRETE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
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this period. Other interesting features of this period of agricultural significance were the initiation of agricultural banks, the introduction of tagavi loans for agricultural development, the coming of the first co-operative credit societies and the development of agricultural associations and seed stores. There is no doubt but that even at that time Baroda was well in the vanguard of progress.

1910 to 1929 —

In the next period a good deal of what had been started enthusiastically was abandoned, to come again into being later in history in a changed form. The agricultural class, the *raison d'être* of the department's existence originally, was closed in 1910, to resume in its present and much more popular and effective form in 1926. The period is marked agriculturally by the dropping of exotics in field trials and by the gradual incoming on a small scale of Indian made products, the earlier introduction of varieties created in Bombay or elsewhere, as for examples 1027 A L F which in the following and last period has been enormously developed, Wagad 8 which is still the best of closed boll types, Broach 9 which, though it failed for reasons of wilt on the heavy soils, has been resurrected for use on the Gorat areas, Pusa 4 in Amreli and Pusa 52, which still hold their own as rust resistant if not entirely in the matter of yield, with other and newer varieties. The departmental farms were, however, very limited. During the major part of the period the original 33 acres at Baroda and another small farm at Jagudan were the only farms. The propaganda and effective agricultural staff consisted of four inspectors, one per district. Among other examples of useful work were the continued spread of groundnuts in general in Amreli, the beginnings of a demand for bone-meal, the increased use of ammonium sulphate in Baroda and partial adoption of copper sulphate as a safeguard against Smut in juar in Mehsana. Considerable attention was given to large scale shows

and the creation of agricultural literature. The first development in the improvement of fruit took place in this period.

The Horticultural section to be referred to later and now in evidence on the Baroda Farm came into being in 1921 and the general expansion of fruit cultivation, of recent years stimulated by its own section, in evidence in the State must be associated with the work done here and Jagudān and in later years at Amreli. Agricultural engineering opened in this period was another section of very effective importance. Its primary work in that period was well-boring in improvement of open wells in the alluvial areas. As referred to in its own section, it came into being as a separate section in 1917, though the earlier boring work was started some seven or eight years earlier. One of the outstanding features of this period was the boom in tractor cultivation in evidence in Gujarat between 1920 and 1928. At this period there was probably more going on in tractor use in Baroda State than anywhere, perhaps with the exception of the Central Provinces. It was in part stimulated by the marked opening up of virgin lands and in part by good cotton prices and the realization by the farmer of the area south of Narmadā of the value of periodic deeper tillage. The State furthered this by extensive loans at low rates of interest. Tractor utilization in another form reappears later in the third period.

Agriculture in 1930-41 —

This period has been one of very rapid advance in all directions and most of the sections referred to above have really originated and developed in this period. A very important progressive factor has been the linking up of the work of the department with the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and hence with like work elsewhere in India.

The period opened with three small farms, the last but newly started covering an area of 89 acres. At the

present day there are eight farms exclusive of the fruit farm and with the cultivated areas of the original three increased the total area now commanded is 473 acres. They are so placed as to cover the soil and climatic conditions of the State with the exception of Okhamandal for which plans for a farm to handle its crops and primary livestock interests—sheep and poultry—under the arid conditions of that tract are in process of application. It must be realized that Baroda State is scattered and has for its size a very big range of cropping conditions. In Mehsana we have the fringe of the conditions of the areas constituting south Rajputana and the States like Radhanpur to the northwest. The soil and rainfall of Amreli is typical of the larger part of Kathiawar, while in Navsari and Baroda are found the soils and heavier rainfall of south and north Gujarat. That inaccurate measure of agricultural conditions, the average rainfall ranged from 70" in the south, 15"—25" in the north and tails away to 18" to 20" in Amreli and less than 10" in Okhamandal. On the system of farms which we now have these and the particular variations created by the soil are fully represented.

The function of these farms is two fold—effective field experiment and the creation and maintenance of the seed organization on which our propaganda rests. To-day Baroda Farms carry some 70 experiments, all laid out in accordance with the conditions required to secure modern statistical significance. The extent of their influence on seed is clearly shown in the schedule of general departmental activities recorded at the end of this chapter. Suffice to say that the 36 lakhs of seers of improved seed now issued by the department seed stores is based on the nucleus production of our seed farms. With these farms is closely linked our agricultural educational programme. The Baroda Farm, aided by the Agricultural Institute in which is housed a small but effective teaching museum, is the centre of such effort. It can at the present day accommodate close on 60 boarders taking the full year courses in agriculture and horticulture and is responsible for the annual education.

in 3 months' courses of some 180 lads in such subjects as farming, oil engines, tobacco curing and fruit preservation. Jagudān with a complete institute and residential quarters similar to that at Baroda, enters for some 24 one year course students and 24 short course farmers' sons. Amreli conducts a short course in agriculture, while the *raison d'être* of the Deodarda village uplift experiment is its agricultural school taking about 100 boys of the Thakardis and Ribari communities from the third to the seventh standard, a type of institution designed for the more backward agricultural class boys. Specialized field research work in cane and paddy is associated with Vyara cotton and paddy with Dabhoi, cotton root rot and general plant breeding with Baroda, cotton closed boll Dholleras with Jagudān and plant breeding, improvement of the short staple Mathio cottons, jurrand bajra with Amreli farm.

Rural Reconstruction —

There are at present two centres *viz.*, that at Kosamba, Navsari district opened in 1931 and that at Karjan Baroda district, opened in 1933. The former is already well known in India and a separate leaflet specially prepared for the Centre gives in short detail the work done in the first 10 years of its existence.

The primary objects were (1) to introduce into village life the improvement and features emphasized by the several beneficent departments. Agricultural, Educational Industrial Medical and Sanitary and Co operative as likely to improve village conditions, as part and parcel of a general scheme and not as isolated entities, (2) to reduce the amount of wasted time and man power and hence in general to increase the village wealth by the introduction of subsidiary enterprises whether related to agriculture in the wider sense or to cottage industries. (3) to develop the co operative spirit in all its aspects moving forward to the creation of multipurpose village societies centring on an organizing union to whom could eventually be left the general development

of the tract. In the first instance for the first five to six years efforts were restricted to 10 villages, subsequently extended to 35.

There is no doubt that, as by the uptake of better seed and the effective marketing of the cotton, the improvement of the village livestock, cattle goats, and poultry, the wider cultivation of fruit and vegetables and the introduction of many subsidiary industries of value there has been a distinct improvement in well being. Education has come to the adult, the school boy has learned the elements of co-operation in his scout troop and the ways and means of garden cultivation. Efforts by the medical and sanitary departments, pushed forward by the Centre, have led to the introduction of the simple village dispensary, the use of bore-hole latrines and a greater idea of cleanliness. The creation of the co-operative spirit has been indicated by the rise of sale societies, thrift societies and credit societies and multi-purpose societies and a co-operative gin.

The centre at Karjan has had the advantage of what has gone on at Kosamba during the look-round-and-see part of its development. It has some advantage in easier banking facilities and above all it has a more united group of leaders and is thus at present set fair for an early attainment of the goal of self management.

Agricultural Engineering —

This section dates back to 1917-18, though it was in 1922-23 when it took its present shape. Of recent years it has been strengthened by the addition of two assistant engineers, other subordinate staff, increased equipment and shop and storage facilities. It was originated in the first instance primarily to develop the cultivators' well water supplies. Its functions at the present day are (1) the boring of open well, (2) the sinkings of deep level tube—wells, (3) the sinking and expansion of wells in rock areas by blasting, (4) the installation and maintenance of oil engine and electric motor driven pumps, (5) the improving and designing of agricultural

implements, (7) agricultural machinery demonstration, (7) the conducting of oil engine and tractor classes and (8) the handling of departmental operations calling for engineering assistance

Water supplies —

The first of these activities which was at that time entirely dependent on departmental enterprise no longer takes a prominent place, as the example set and the success attained has brought into the field a large number of private operators who take on this work in the relative easy conditions of the alluvial soils of Gujarat. It has, however, to its credit the boring of over 1,600 wells, work which has probably aided the grower by the addition of from 50 to 60 lakhs of gallons per hour. The number of wells improved by this means at the present day is placed at between 5,500 to 6,000.

Of recent years its efforts have been concentrated primarily on (2) and (3). It has to its credit 65 deep level tube—wells (200 and over) sunk for agricultural purposes, while under the improvement of wells in rock areas, primarily the basalt of Amreli district, as is shown in the schedule its capacity and effort has much increased, largely because in addition to the system of exploding dynamite in the base of wells in which the drilling to take the charges was done by the cultivator by hand, it has in its equipment two compressor drills operated by tractor power which enables blasting, when the equipment handles five to six wells at one centre, to be many times quicker.

Contract ploughing —

The department has at its disposal some eight tractors of which three are high power Caterpillar tractors. Using these it carries out during the clear season, roughly February and the end of May, contract ploughing in the heavy soils of the Navsari district, where the value of this assistance in clearing kans and opening the soil

is much appreciated. The extent of effective work in the year is largely dependent on the earliness or lateness of the cotton crop. Thus in 1939-40 it was full four months while in 1940-41 barely 6-7 weeks were available. This introduction in aid of the farmer dates to 1937-38. About 5,000 acres have been ploughed by this outfit. The record is shown in the table at the end of the chapter.

Implements —

Of recent years the section has given a good deal of attention to agricultural implements, either in trial of different forms or as by designing effective implements. It has to its credit (1) the A G Baroda cultivator and hoe, designed to fulfil several functions of which over 2,200 have been locally made, tested and sold in the past three or four years, (2) an effective wheat thresher, available (at least before the present cost of iron took effect) at Rs 45 by which in many tests carried out on wheat there is a saving of 300% in cost, (3) adoption of the Martin ditcher and grader for use by bullock power and other bund formers. In the matter of education, as provided by three months course in oil engines and motor engines introduced to meet the marked increase of the use of power in water lifting and motor transport by the farmer, some 592 men have received training since these classes were first inaugurated in 1923.

Marketing Section —

This is, as elsewhere in India, a recent addition dating from 1935 when Government sanctioned the appointment for a period of three years of two marketing officers so as to deal expeditiously with the marketing surveys then starting. One officer concentrated on agricultural and the other on live stock products. In 1938 on the completion of this work the section was stabilized under one marketing officer and one assistant.

and such assistants as might be called for with the expansion of regulated markets. Development work began in 1938.

The following have been the chief activities —

- (1) the marketing of 1027 A L F cotton,
- (2) the establishment of AG mark ghee grading centres,
- (3) the beginning of egg grading operation,
- (4) the Bombay-Baroda buffalo news service,
- (5) the salvage of dry buffalo from Bombay city,
- (6) the creation of regulated markets.

The first of these is distinctly the best and most important work done by this section in enabling the producer of a special product to get the advantage in price it merits. The work has the financial assistance of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The table at the end indicates the expansion and increasing financial value coming to the producer by organized cultivation, ginning and marketing.

There are at present four ghee grading centres, though the output for various reasons first shown has not been maintained. There is at present one egg grading centre, but with the expansion of the work covered under poultry, it is anticipated that four more will be started. The chief aim of the egg grading scheme is the organization of egg collecting societies and the direct sale of graded produce.

One regulated market has now been in operation with considerable success at Bodeli in Baroda district for two years and the Act has now been applied at Amreli.

Agricultural Education —

Education of this kind was the first thing considered when improvement in agriculture was begun. As noted this was followed by a class at Baroda and boys' schools in Navsari, which after a few years gradually

petered out. The class at Baroda which catered for a limited amount of employment in the Revenue department of the day had but little real support, and had to be closed down.

Agricultural education in any intensive form, aimed purely at educating the young farmer in the job to which he will return, dates from 1926. Till 1936, apart from the short course in oil engine, the revised 10 months' course given at Baroda, catering for about 24 students, for which there was a big demand was the only outlet. Since then, however, there has been a marked expansion. Two well-equipped institutes, one at Baroda and the other at Jagudan, have come into being, and short courses in farming, tobacco, fruit preservation, poultry and dairying have been added to that available at Baroda on oil engines while short farming courses have been introduced on several farms. At Deodarda in north Mehsana we have a very well found boys' school in which about half the education given is literary and the balance directed to agriculture and industrial work, a type of school which will be repeated in conjunction with the Dabhoi farm. The table following indicates the gradual rise in the number of students entertained.

PROGRESS OF IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Particulars	1935 36	1936 37	1937 38	1938 39	1939 40	1940 41
1 No of villages under intensive attention	19	226	280	351	393	417
2 No of villages directly visited for 2 days by itinerant cart service		130	232	374	284	252
3 No of villages associated with above brought into touch with departmental work		160	341	475	573	462

Particulars	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41
4 No of comparative field demonstration plots arranged on farmers' fields.	18	710	1,045	1,432	2,546	2,160
5 Seers of approved seed issued by departmental seed agency with the State	4,63,632*	5,24,641†	5,90,39	9,76,410	13,77,166‡	33,13,015
6 Seers of cake, bone meal, fer tiliser, sulphur, etc from depart mental depots.	12,620	54,040	67,290	1,35,670	2,13,118	2,00,000
7 No of demon strations in ma nure conserva tion.		627	1,232	1,430	1,768	2,115
8 No of demon strations of im plements and simple machines	12	1,735	2,513	2,401	2,614	3,315
9 Cart loads of new manure made by vil lages as a result of No 7		700	1,100	6,700	14,760	90,000
10 No of major implements sup plied to farmers	27	113	1,033	809	912	735
11 No. of hand tools, principal ly cotton pullers	3,050	5,610	2,381	4,517	6,815	5,973
12 No of cases of sickness dealt with by the veterinary sur geons.	31,571	28,974	43,074	49,447	61,602	58,529
13 No of animals protected from epidemic di seases	9,70	11,815	47,600	68,42	68,453	1,17,880
14 No of wells dynamited.	20	80	90	445	580	242

Particulars	1935 36	1936 37	1937 38	1938 39	1939 40	1940 41
15 Nos of water added	15	63	46	227	181	171
16 Area ploughed by State tractors on contract		35	595	1,867	3,215	1,439
17 Fruit plants issued by State nurseries	1,749	5 997	7,094	6,665	11,139	5,153
18 Bales of cotton marketed by Marketing Officer			2,146	2,760	7,612	5,575
19 Total premia per khandi over local secured by growers		Rs	Rs 5,677	Rs 10,180	Rs 34,716	Rs 32,625
20 Persons taken in courses in agriculture and allied subjects for three months and over	47	89	146	146	227	317

* Mostly secured from Bombay

† Partly secured from Bombay

‡ In addition, the State seed organisation sold 3 30 000 seers cotton seed to Rajpipla making the total seed handled for seed purposes 34,43 015 seers

ROADS AND RAILWAYS IN BARODA

ROADS

Land transport —

The modern civilization depends mainly on the land transport consisting of roads and railways which are supplementary to each other. As 75% of Baroda population lives in villages, it is essential to have roads connecting villages with one another, with head-quarter towns, markets and railway stations.

History —

Till the year 1875 when His Highness the late Maharaja Sir Sayajirao III ascended the throne there was practically very little of what may be called 'roads' in its modern sense in the State. Most of the roads were more or less mere cart tracks. The present road development in the State is entirely due to the interest taken and far sighted policy laid down by that illustrious ruler.

A programme of road policy devised with vision and foresight by His Highness the late Maharaja Saheb and steadfastly followed has yielded remarkable achievements in road construction which may be reviewed by well-marked periods.

Construction of new roads was going on till 1907 in a slightly casual manner. The local boards constructed small roads, after consulting the Revenue and Forest departments, where urgent necessity of roads was felt. Till 1907, 456 miles of roads (224 miles metalled and 232 miles kankar, gravel or murrum or earthen roads) were constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 37,62,000.

BARODA FOREST

Location —

The main valuable forests of the Baroda State containing teak as the main species are situated in the hilly tracts of Songadh, Vyara, Mithuva and Mangrol talukas of the Navsari district. The river Tapti runs through the midst of these tracts for about 40 miles dividing them in to two unequal portions lying north and south of the river. The northern portion includes the ranges of the Vajpur and Vankal, while in the southern area are the Vyara, Songadh and Sadadvel ranges. Other forest areas are in Baroda, Mehsana and Amreli districts. The Sankheda range in Baroda district is composed of a few scattered patches of scrub forest badly grazed and very open. In Mehsana district some of the ravine areas are under a scheme of afforestation for soil conservation. The forests of Gir hills in Amreli district are mainly pasture areas interspersed with patches of pole-forests of mixed species.

The bare salt areas of Okhamandal are being tackled for soil cover and soil improvement.

Area of different ranges —

The areas of the different ranges are as follows —

District	Ranges	Area Bighas
Navsari	Vyara	1,41,341
	Sadadvel	79,689
	Songadh	1,24,425
	Vajpur	1,75,952
	Vankal	1,12,765
Baroda	Sankheda	18,932
Mehsana	Attarsumba	12,419
Amreli	Gir	87,510
	Okha	22,747
Total		7,75,780 i e 712 8 Sq Miles

Communication —

A greater part of the forest produce is carted to the railway stations of Vyara, Songadh, Navapur and Chunchpada on the Tapti Valley Railway. The southern forests of the Vyara range are served by the Billimora Kala-amba Railway and the Vankal forests by the Kosamba Zankhavav Railway. Bamboos and some timber are also rafted down the river Tapti. River Purna is also occasionally used for this purpose. Good fair weather roads radiate towards all the forests from the main railway stations. These are being extended into the interior and a scheme of interconnecting fair weather and feeder roads is in progress. The main roads will be gradually metalled up.

Products —

Timber is the main major product. The forests are of the dry deciduous miscellaneous type with a distinct predominance of Teak. Teak forms about 40 to 60% of the growing stock in the Navsari forests which yield good timber. From among the usual associates of Teak, the more important timber species are Sisam, (*Dalbergia Latifolia*), Tanach (*Cuzenia Dalbergoides*), Sadada (*Terminalia*), Catechu, Haladwan (*Albizia*), *carpus*, Dhaman, *Latifolia* (*Acacia*) extracted here as timber.

Two species of bamboos (1) *Dendrocalamus Strictus* and (2) *Bamboosa Arundinecea* are found throughout the Navsari forests. The former is more abundant and is in good demand. The Vajpur and Nanchal forests contain a preponderance of bamboos which are an appreciable source of revenue from these forests.

The main minor products are leaves of *Asindra* (*Bauhinioracemosa*) and Timru (*Diospyrus melanoxylon*).

which are used as wrappers for 'bidies'—country cigarettes, fruits and flowers of Mahuda (*Bassia Latifolia*) raw fibres from Atai (*Helicteres isora*) used for tying bamboo, and timber rafis, gums of Babul and Dhamoda, fruits of *Terminalia Chebula* and *Zizyphus Zilopyya* used as tannins, Lac cultivated on *Butea Frondosa*, Katha, catechu extract from *Acacia Catechu* and Rosa oil extracted to a limited extent on the Salher Hills Development of most of these items on systematic lines is in progress

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF BARODA

Baroda State is industrially one of the most advanced regions in India. The position attained by the State in this respect has been achieved by a steady process of industrialisation during the last fifty years as the result of a systematic policy of industrial development followed by the State.

The total amount of paid-up capital of joint-stock companies, working in Baroda State is Rs 166 lakhs which compares very favourably with figures of provinces and States regarded as industrially developed, in spite of the fact that there are no important mineral resources in the State, except various kinds of stone and clay, nor any natural resources for hydro electric power.

The rate of progress of the State's industrial expansion during the last twelve years is really noteworthy. The number of operatives employed in factories in the State increased from 17,000 in 1927 to 41,104 in 1940-41 which is nearly two and a half times. Together with these figures a brief account of the expansion in some of the major industries in the State in recent years, will give a better idea of such expansion.

Textile Industry —

In regard to the textile industry, the number of mills in the State increased from 11 in 1928-29 to 19 in 1940-41. During this period, the capital invested showed

an increase of 150 per cent. The number of looms increased from 2,500 to 6,874 and the quantity of yarn produced increased from 150 lakhs lbs to 398 lakhs lbs. As, during this period, there has been a tendency to produce more and more yarn of finer counts, the actual progress would be much greater if we considered the value of the yarn produced.

The Dinesh Mill is the only woollen mill in the State and it is a matter of gratification that Baroda State has been able to contribute towards the military requirements of the Government of India, to a certain extent through this mill which is now engaged fully in manufacturing blankets for the British Government.

Cement Industry —

The cement factory at Dwaraka has made progress at a rate which is comparable to the growth of the textile industry in the State. Its production was only 40,000 tons in 1931-32. They have recently set up an additional plant for increased output of cement in this factory from 90,000 tons to 1,20,000 tons a year.

Chemical Industry —

Perhaps the most notable industry in the State is the chemical industry. The Alembic Chemical Works Co., Ltd., is one of the biggest chemical works in India, and the increase in its sales from Rs. 6 lakhs in 1927 to Rs. 16 lakhs in 1940-41 indicates that the company is making good progress. The starting of the heavy chemicals industry at Mithapur will constitute an important landmark in the history of industrial development of the State.

The Tata Chemicals Ltd. — This company started in the year 1939 has made considerable progress. Necessary buildings, sheds, godowns, roads are being put up and machinery is being erected. It is expected that production will begin next year. The manufacture of salt

and its bye-products was continued. Out of 44,859 tons of salt produced in 1940-41, 29,356 tons of salt were exported to Bengal.

The Hindustan Colour, Chemical & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Kathuada, (about four miles from Ahmedabad) : It is organised by an important firm of industrialists from Ahmedabad with an authorised capital of Rs 50,00,000.

Construction work has made considerable progress and it is proposed to manufacture modified starches, hydrogen peroxide, textile auxiliaries, Paris green etc. The Pankaj products, Baroda and the Nar Chemical Works, Nar (Petlad) are two small concerns, manufacturing textile chemicals.

The Visnu Industrial Works manufacture white paints and Paris Green on a small scale as also malaria oil and other disinfectants, mosquito coils, textile soap insecticides etc.

The Petlad Turkey Red Dye Works, Petlad —It owns a plant for the manufacture of sulphuric acid with a capacity of about one ton per day.

Match Industry —

There are two match factories at present in the State, of which the one at Petlad is the better established and the bigger of the two. Although, a few years ago, there were many match factories in the Bombay presidency, in recent years, practically all of them have ceased to exist. But the factory at Petlad has made considerable progress.

Oil Industry —

Baroda State is one of the important oil seeds producing areas and there is an enormous scope for the development of the oil crushing industry. The total number of oil mills increased from 5 in 1929 to 13 in 1940-41. During the same period the output increased from about



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Rs 7 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs in value per year. It may be noted that the cotton oil mill at Navsari is the only mill crushing cotton seeds in the Bombay Presidency.

Miscellaneous Industries —

As regards miscellaneous industries, mention may be made of the China clay works at Ransipur, which commenced operations in 1934-35. The quantity of China clay recovered and refined increased from about 280 tons in 1935-36 to 840 tons in 1940-41.

Enamel Industry —

The Vijaya Enamel Works, Goyagate, Baroda is the expansion of a small enamel concern helped by Government loans in its initial stage and is now in a position to supply enamel ware sign boards etc. Sheet enamelling work is also done on a large scale.

The Gujarat Rubber Works, Baroda —

This factory undertakes the manufacture of rubber and ebonite articles like rollers used in textile and sugar mills, stoppers, corks, ground sheets etc.

Paints Industry —

(1) The Baroda asbestos and Paints Works Ltd Baroda has been organised within Baroda with an authorised capital of Rs 5,00,000. Government have agreed to participate to the extent of 20% in half the share capital to be issued at present. It is still in the preliminary stage.

Rolling Mill —

Messrs N Jivanlal & Co of Bombay have now constructed a rolling mill in Baroda. The building is complete and the necessary machinery is being installed. It is proposed to manufacture bars and sheets from brass and other metal scrap.

Paper Bags Factory—

A loan of Rs 5,000 has been given to Mr Kersandas Gordhandas of Bombay by the Government for starting a paper bag factory. It is recently started in Billimora.

Power-loom and other factories —

In the last five years, four power-loom factories have been established, of which two are in Billimora, one at Patan and one at Karan all of which are weaving artificial silk yarn partly or wholly. Another important industry, which has been developed in the last three years, is the wood work factory at Navsari which is manufacturing bobbins, hanks and other textile equipment. In two years its output has reached the level of Rs 2 lakhs a year and it is able to sell its products in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Calcutta, as also in the State. A new concern has also been started at Vijapur this year for crushing and refining coloured earth and refining chalk. The raw materials in this case are imported from Kathiawar and the Idar State.

Prospects for Developing New Industries —

The possibilities for starting new industries in the State are now briefly discussed. These industries may be considered under two classes

(i) those industries for which there are raw materials available in the State, and

(ii) those industries for which no special raw materials are required and which can be started anywhere, provided sufficient financial and technical resources are available and there is a considerable local market.

The industries coming in the first group are paper industry, cigarette manufacture, oil and allied industries and wood work factories, glass industry and power alcohol industry. Industries falling under group (ii) are manufacture of electric bulbs, plastics industry and biscuits manufacture.

As regards most of the industries mentioned above there are proposals for starting them in the State, and the department is scrutinising the schemes put forward and making enquiries

As regards paper industry, there was some doubt whether sufficient bamboos would be available for a fairly large sized factory having a plant with a capacity of, say, 10 tons per day. A survey of the State's bamboo resources which has been recently carried out has, however, shown that the quantity of bamboos available near about Vyara would be much more than would be required for a factory of this size or even a larger one

There are also similarly good prospects for starting a straw board factory as the necessary raw materials can be available from the surrounding forests in the Navsari district.

Plywood Industry —

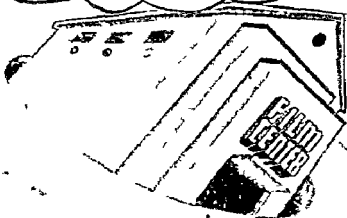
Soft woods of different species such as Modad, Kakad, Bondaro etc, are available in forests in the Navsari district and the test reports about the suitability of these soft woods for the manufacture of plywood industry are now obtained from the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The results are encouraging

As regards cigarette industry, although all the Indian Virginia tobacco required will not be available locally the steps, which have recently been taken for developing the growth of Virginia tobacco in the State, ensure that, in future, probably all the requirements of a big factory will be met from local supplies

Glass Industry —

Investigation into the possibilities of starting the manufacture of glass were made and data obtained during previous inquiries and investigations was collected. Dr V S Dubev, Head of the department of Glass Technology of the Benares Hindu University was invited by the Government and he has now submitted

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his survey report He has expressed quite a favourable opinion about the prospects of starting manufacture of glass industries in Baroda and Okhamandal districts There is a definite move from Messrs Gor & Co, of Sunthrod (Godhra) who have been granted concessions to start shortly a glass factory in the State with an authorised capital of Rs 25 lakhs

Marble, granite and flooring tiles Industries —

A few miles away from Baroda lie the Motipura mines in the Sankheda taluka where green marble, red granite and sand stone are available in large quantities, Dr Dubey visited this area and submitted a detailed report which will soon be available to the public

IRRIGATION IN BARODA

Prior to 1885 irrigation was practised in the several districts of the State by means of crudely managed rice ponds or small tanks This was particularly prevalent in the Navsari district, where due to very favourable conditions of rainfall and the undulatory nature of ground surface, paddy cultivation from such small tanks was fairly easy and efficient A regular, well defined and controlled system of irrigation commenced with the progressive rule of the late H H Sayajirao III

In the year 1885, a temporary administrative division for irrigation was created under an executive engineer for the development of irrigation and drainage works It undertook drainage of khar-salty lands of the Mehsana division

A great impetus to the installation of well-defined and controlled irrigation systems was however given by the unprecedented famine of the year 1899-1900 when several major and minor tank irrigation works were undertaken by the Baroda Government to provide relief to famine stricken people and also to find sources of water for irrigation

A special irrigation division under the Irrigation Engineer was formed in 1900 and the enthusiasms for a bold irrigation policy was so great that irrigation works costing about Rs 50 to 60 lakhs were undertaken and put into operation within a span of a few years

EDUCATION

Baroda is known for its State wide and profound educational policy. The Government is spending 17.6% of their income on education. It offers to the whole of India a unique example of what could and should be done by way of education to develop conditions favourable to an all round uplift of the people. A short history and the present position of the educational activities of the State will be of interest to visitors, social workers and students.

History and expansion —

State efforts in education in Baroda go as far back as 1871, when for the first time two Gujarati and two Marathi schools were opened by the Government. Progress was at first slow, and when the late Maharaja Sayajirao III assumed full powers in 1881, there were as many as 180 primary schools with 7,465 pupils. Under his inspiration, however, education developed rapidly. In 1893 compulsory primary education was introduced as an experimental measure in Amreli district, and rapidly extended, till in 1906, it was made applicable to the whole State. Education is now compulsory between the ages of 7 and 12, and all compulsory education up to the primary class V is free.

The period since then has been one of consolidation, the efforts of the department being mainly directed towards the effective administration of the compulsory act, training of teachers, improvement of the quality of education and the establishment of a network of libraries.

Institutions and pupils —

The total number of educational institutions at the end of year 1940-41 was 2,504. The total number of pupils attending these is 2,98,063. The percentage of boys and girls under instruction to the total male and female population is 14.4 and 9.7 respectively. The table given below will give some idea of the rapid and speedy expansion of education in Baroda —

Year	No. of schools	Number of pupils	Expenditure Rs
1871	4		13,000
1881	180	17,165	96,805
1891	503	50,978	2,97,031
1901	1,189	83,277	6,06,366
1911	3,026	1,85,477	14,06,085
1921	2,797	1,98,816	25,42,031
1931	2,736	2,44,055	34,84,243
1941	2,504	2,98,063	38,81,754

Administration and inspection —

The administration of educational work is carried on by the Education department which is divided into two sections, the Primary and the English education branch, needless to say that these two sections are in close harmony with each other, and the whole departmental work is under the direction and control of the Vidyadhikari (Commissioner of Education) who assisted in his work by the Naib Vidyadhikari. For purposes of educational administration, the State is sub divided into six divisions each under a divisional

inspector For the inspection and supervision of the secondary schools there is one inspector of secondary schools Besides these there are two inspectresses of girls' schools for the Baroda and Mehsana districts, and special inspectors for the Urdu, the Antyaj and the Raniparaj schools

Expenditure —

The total expenditure of the department amounted to Rs 38,81,754 during the year 1940-41 The average expenditure for the last ten years has been about Rs 37 lakhs per annum

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN BARODA

Technical education started in most of the western countries only by 1825 in the form of Mechanics Institutes to provide courses of lectures in general science which young working men could attend in evenings after their day's work It was not till 1875 tht technical institutes and colleges began to be established in England providing day courses of instruction properly arranged and spread over 3 or 4 years It is a matter of satisfaction to Baroda that His late Highness Sir Sayaji Rao III impressed by the importance of the technical education movement pioneered it in our country not long after its development in Great Britain under the lead of City and Guilds of London Institutes founded in 1878

With the object of helping the people to improve the existing industries and to introduce new ones His late Highness ordered in March 1890 that a central technical institute at Baroda and industries schools at some of the prominent industrial centres in the different districts of the State be opened for the purpose of imparting technical education through the medium of the vernacular language of the Sate A few excerpts from the above order given below will be of interest even to day

“ It is accordingly directed that a technical institution should be opened at Baroda where the education of the hand and eye will be attempted side by side with that of the mind, and where instruction will be imparted mainly through the vernacular

“ The object is to help the people to improve the existing industries, and to introduce new ones that may be remunerative

“ It is desirable that a modest beginning should be made, and the scope of the institution should accordingly be restricted for the present to teaching, drawing, bleaching, dyeing and calico printing and carpentry

“ The course of instruction should combine theory and practice so as to turn out a more skilful artisan than at present . ”

Sanction was given to open some district schools also Thus from the very start, the problem of technical and industrial education in the State is viewed in a comprehensive way

The late Professor T K Gajjar was the organiser and the first Principal of the Central Technical Institute opened in June 1890 under the name of the Kala-Bhavan, and a modest beginning was made by opening classes in drawing, carpentry and dyeing and calico printing About a couple of months after, a class in mechanical engineering was added

During the second year the subjects of studies for all the different classes were revised and re arranged Some more subjects like architecture, photography and painting were added and the scope of the institute was widened

To enable the weavers to understand the advantages of introducing fly shuttle arrangement in the native hand loom and to provide technical instruction in the art of hand loom weaving, a class was added to the Central Institute at Baroda in 1897 This class has since been developed into a school of weaving

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In 1901 nib and button making, brush making and pyrography were added as extra subjects in the schools of Mechanical Technology, Architecture and Art respectively and were intended to serve as home industries, but they had to be abandoned owing to lack of response.

A class in watch and clock making and repairing (horology) was added to the Kala-Bhavan in 1902. This was developed into a school of watch-making and was conducted under a local artisan teacher, who had been trained in Switzerland (1908).

A commercial class was added in 1906 which later on developed as a school of commerce.

Along with the work of developing the different schools of the central Technical Institute at Baroda, the work of organising and opening industrial schools in the districts was taken in hand. These schools were opened at Kathor in the Navsari district, Petlad in the Baroda district, and Patan in the Mehsana district. Some of these were closed and new ones opened at other centres.

In 1921 Dr. Hag of Bangalore and in 1925 Principal Charles A. King of the Benares Engineering College were invited by the Government to inspect and submit proposals for reorganising the institute.

Some of the recommendations were

- 1 rebuilding of the workshops and the dye-house,
- 2 giving up the trading side of the shops in so far as they worked in the slightest degree apart from the teaching side,
- 3 building of hostels,
- 4 forming engineering laboratories and dye-house and selecting their equipment.

A sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs for erecting and rebuilding the workshops and dye-house was sanctioned. But in view of the general advance in educational requirements

of the Baroda State and the need for additional facilities for consolidating and advancing knowledge, the Government appointed a commission to investigate the possibilities of a University at Baroda. As a consequence the construction of the workshop buildings was postponed for some time.

After the final decision of the question in 1933 a beginning was made by purchasing a new engine and boiler at a cost of Rs 30,000 and building new sheds for the same.

The old workshops have been remodelled and a new workshop containing

- (1) an engine and boiler shed covering an area of 6,400 sq ft,
- (2) a new dye house covering an area of 9,600 sq ft
- (3) a new weaving shed covering an area of 6,400 sq ft
- (4) a machine shop covering an area of 4,800 sq ft
- (5) a smithy and foundry shop covering an area of 4,200 sq ft, and
- (6) a fitting and pattern making shop covering an area of 4,800 sq ft

at a cost of about Rs 1½ lakhs has been built.

A new electrical laboratory covering an area of 4,800 sq ft is expected to be ready shortly.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATION IN BARODA

The development of free public libraries is by far not the least among the notable achievements of H H the late Maharaja Sayajirao's long and meritorious regime. As far back as 1910 he foresaw the important part which libraries would be called upon to play in any movement for the uplift of the masses. The

scheme of village libraries then evolved under his personal supervision and fostering care has stood four square all these years and is now increasingly coming under the notice of people concerned with the increase of literacy and of enlightened citizenship. The object of the scheme has been to make the people aware of a higher standard of intellectual living, of a more abundant life and making them so aware as to inspire them to set about achieving it on the basis of self-help.

The original scheme was that there should be four types of mofussil libraries, the district town libraries should be situated at the chief town of each of the four districts of the State (receiving a maximum annual grant of Rs 700,) the town libraries should be situated at the taluka head-quarters or in places having more than 4,000 population (receiving a maximum annual grant of Rs 300), the village libraries should be situated in villages (receiving a maximum annual grant of Rs 100) and fourthly integrating and supplementing the services of these libraries should be the travelling libraries operated from Baroda. The grant from the department in each case was conditional upon the people raising an equal amount from amongst themselves. The department of libraries was authorized to promise on behalf of the district local boards an equal contribution. The scheme envisaged a hierarchy of institutions, the village libraries being supervised by town libraries which in their turn would be looked after by the district town libraries and these by the department of libraries.

Present organization —

Except that they do not stand in this pyramidal order the present development of village libraries is in conformity with the original scheme. There are at present four types of libraries—4 district town libraries, 42 town libraries, 1,270 village libraries and 390 travelling library boxes. To them have been added three other types, the reading-rooms—156 in number, the children's



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room—12 in number and the ladies' libraries—18 in number. These have come into existence by the exigencies of social and economic circumstances. In districts of not very well-to-do peasants it was found impossible to collect as many as Rs 75 which is the minimum capital with which the smallest library comes into being. On the other hand they found it convenient to begin with a reading-room costing no more than Rs 25. The reading-room has only newspapers and magazines and no books. The reading-rooms have always proved in experience to develop into libraries. Year by year reading-rooms are being transformed into full fledged libraries. The starting of children's rooms received a tremendous impetus when the library movement came to be regarded as an essential complement of compulsory primary education. To prevent relapse into illiteracy it was necessary to keep alive the reading habits of youths after the few years of compulsory schooling. And the free public libraries were eminently suitable for this purpose. They promoted free and read-what-you-like type of informal reading and thus provided a continuation of the school. In the library were kept lists of students who had recently left schools. They were studied by the librarians in silence to see that the listed boys and girls made use of library facilities. The method was persuasive and more effective. This trend has been there from the very beginning and it has been emphasized during the last twelve years. The ladies' libraries were found necessary in the first instance to overcome the Indian women's traditional shyness to make joint use with men of public institutions and later, with the increasing participation of women in all spheres, to give wider scope to their new enthusiasm for works of public service.

A village library

A village library starts with a basic collection of hundred rupees' worth of books. People's share in this is just Rs 25, the other Rs 75 are given as a gift from Government. To start a library, however,

villagers have to collect Rs 75 out of which Rs 25 are set a part for books and Rs 50 for buying furniture and contingencies

All the libraries and reading rooms are free and the only condition of admission as a registered reader is that the person must belong to the place. Subscriptions are nevertheless accepted and they entitle the subscribers to some privileges, such as getting more books at a time for home-reading or getting magazines and newspapers from the library at home

Management —

The libraries are independent bodies managed by a local library committee consisting of from 6 to 12 members. The president of the committee is a leader of village society, the secretary—generally the senior teacher—is the moving spirit of the committee and not infrequently he works as an honorary librarian. When he does not so work, the post of the librarian is taken up by a junior teacher. The teacher's work is unpaid though notice is taken of his library work in judging his efficiency as a teacher. As secretary he collects the people's share of the annual budget, keeps accounts and with the approval of the president corresponds with the department of libraries or other institutions. The president and the library committee bank on his enthusiasm and the teacher on his part puts in work his best endeavour. In progressive villages he earns not only the good will of the people but small allowance for his library work from the committee of management.

The children's rooms are managed by the library committee of the adults' library. The ladies' libraries are managed by an auxiliary committee consisting of women who work in close co-operation with the main committee.

Travelling libraries —

The travelling libraries are boxes of books sent from Baroda to supplement and refresh the stock of books of

the stationary libraries. They are also used to do the duty of libraries where none exist. There is a stock of books in Baroda separate from that of the Central Library, which is drawn upon to fill the travelling libraries' boxes. This stock is mostly of Gujarati books, the other languages represented being English, Hindi and Marathi.

Library buildings —

The independence of the libraries is both an index of local pride and a source of inspiration to the villagers. They feel that the library is their institution and that it must well stand comparison with its neighbours. This pride is, if anything, stimulated if the library is given a building of its own. Generally the libraries are housed in school buildings, rarely in private-owned houses. Since 1930 the library department has been setting apart about ten thousand rupees annually for helping mofussil libraries in having their own buildings. The smallest library building approved is worth Rs. 1,800 and some of the more ambitious buildings are worth from twenty to thirty thousand rupees. The local people, the department and the district local board share the expenses of the building in more or less equal proportion. The local people besides finding one third expenses are required to lay by one thousand rupees from the interest of which the building can be maintained in proper repair. In the year 1940-41 there were 184 libraries with their own buildings. It has been found that the people's share is generally a handsome donation of a single individual who regards the library building as a suitable memorial to perpetuate the memory of his dear relative. The library department permits the name of the donor to be associated with the library.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

'If there is one thing to which His Highness the Maharaja attaches more importance than to any other, it is rural reconstruction,' so said H. E. Sir V. T.

Krishnamachari unveiling the statue of H. H. Maharaja Pratapsinh Gaekwar at Ranoli—an ideal village

“The expression rural reconstruction,” continued he, “is now familiar to all of us. This expression covers a multiplicity of activities embracing all aspects of life of the village. Its aim is to fill the people with an ambition for a higher standard of living and the spirit to work persistently for securing such a standard.”

The State has carried out this policy both in spirit and action. Against frost and famine, the State helped with ready remissions of revenue, gratuitous grants of relief and tagavi on a generous scale. In 1934, to mitigate the effects of the frost of that year, the State remitted Rs. 10 lakhs or more than 10 per cent of its land revenue demand. In 1935, frost again supervened, and the State responded with nearly Rs. 22 lakhs of remission and a special tagavi of Rs. 8 lakhs. In 1936-37 Rs. 6 lakhs of tagavi and Rs. 22 lakhs of remissions were sanctioned. In 1938-39, remissions to the tune of Rs. 7 lakhs were again granted. To crown all, almost at the close of the late reign, the total land revenue demand was reduced by 22.3 per cent. This reduction was made permanent by the Maharaja at his accession and was substituted for the existing settlement rates. The total concession thus amounted to Rs. 21.67 lakhs annually.

To grapple with the problem of distressed areas, a committee consisting of three principal officers was appointed to go thoroughly into the rural problems and suggest changes in agricultural practices, the possibility of extending well irrigation, the chances of introducing subsidiary industries and such other measures of planned improvement. The committee recommended a ten-year plan of improvements falling under (1) irrigation schemes, (2) dry farming, (3) pasture and animal husbandry, (4) agricultural finance and improvements in rural education. Government generally approved of the far-reaching recommendations and provided

finance to bring them gradually into execution according to the ten year plan devised

Rural uplift centres —

No lasting improvement can be achieved in the conditions of rural life, unless all sides of it are served at the same time. There are various Government departments which concern themselves with individual aspects of village life *viz.*, education, agriculture, co-operation, industries, public health etc. To co-ordinate their activities and to create a desire for a higher standard of living all round, a Rural Reconstruction centre at the village Kosamba of Navsari district was opened in 1933-34. Another centre was opened at Karjan in Baroda district in 1939 on almost the same lines as at Kosamba.

The centres aim at effecting an improvement in all aspects of rural life, changing in fact the outlook of the agriculturists, to create a desire for a higher standard of living which in turn should furnish the driving power towards higher and better material production and the elimination of the needless idle hours and the waste of wealth by the defective use. This work had to be necessarily intensive and confined to a group of villages round the centre in which it was possible for the Superintendent and his co-workers to establish personal contact with practically all the agriculturists of the area. The centre itself is secondary to the main work which lies in the villages and with the people.

The activities of the centres can be grouped as under —

A Economic Programme —

- 1 Introduction of subsidiary occupations like poultry keeping, kitchen, gardening, spinning and weaving, etc
- 2 Marketing of agricultural produce

- 3 Introduction of new and better varieties of cotton and other crops
- 4 Increased use of manure
- 5 Intensive propaganda against crop diseases
- 6 Improvement of cattle
- 7 Tree planting
- 8 Organising thrift societies and other co-operative institutions

B Educational and moral programme —

This includes adult education, development of a community sense and of a feeling of solidarity in villages, propaganda against evils like early marriage and unreasonable customs connected with social observances, the proper use of village libraries, the scout movement and other educative work through lantern slide-lectures, —in short everything that would make village life full and interesting

Rural Sanitation —

The Government has also established a Health Unit at Kosamba with a view to improve public health in rural areas and also to train the rural population in public health and sanitation in all its aspects. The unit is composed of 30 villages round about Kosamba. The unit staff consists of a male and female medical officer, a nurse and a sanitary inspector. During the year 1940-41, every village of the unit was visited four times by one or the other member of the staff. During the visits, attention is paid to anti natal cases prevention of contagious diseases examining the health of school-children, and general sanitation. During the year, 11 schools were visited and 841 children were examined. 145 adults were also examined and rendered medical aid, 48 labour cases were conducted, 151 persons were vaccinated, propaganda work was carried on and 20

lectures were given at different places. Magic lantern and film shows were also arranged at these meetings. Village dispensaries were started in 15 villages of the unit.

The Uplift Trust Funds —

In addition to these improvement measures, the State finances set apart for these beneficial services in rural areas, were augmented in a remarkable way through the private munificence of His late Highness and his present successor. To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of his glorious reign, H. H. the late Maharaja Sayajirao set apart a Trust Fund of a crore of rupees for rural uplift in 1936.

He defined his purposes in these memorable words: "My ideal is to improve village life—all sides of it. I wish to develop in my people a keen desire for a higher standard of living, 'a will to live better,' and a capacity for self help and self reliance. I earnestly desire to make village life interesting and farming a career, the rewards of which will satisfy the most enterprising among the villagers. From the income of this fund, grants will be made for useful schemes, like extensions of gamthans to relieve over crowding, village water supplies, communications, educative work of all kinds etc. Special preference will be given (i) to poorer areas which probably have been neglected in the past, and (ii) to the needs of the backward communities like the Raniparaj, the Antyajs, the Thakardas, the Rabaris, etc."

Sayajirao Memorial Fund —

The present Maharaja, to perpetuate the revered memory of His late Highness Sayajirao, set apart a crore of rupees from his privy charities for the general purposes of the people's well being.

The following are the major schemes financed from this trust:

- (1) The Maharani Shantadevi Trust Fund for medical aid to the women and children of the State
- (2) Shree Sayajirao Memorial Scholarships to the sons of Sardars, Assamdars etc for secondary and higher education
- (3) The Agricultural Institute at Baroda

The Diamond Jubilee People's Trust Fund —

This fund was started by the people of the State in order to create a fitting memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of their beloved ruler. Out of the total proceeds, Rs 6,78,000 were set apart, after deducting the expenses of celebrating the Jubilee for creating the Diamond Jubilee People's Trust Fund. The income from this fund is mainly utilised for encouraging agricultural and technical education by granting scholarships, opening training classes and so on.

The income from all the above funds amounting to 7 lakhs of rupees is thus utilised for the improvement of village life in all its aspects—social, economic and cultural and their special object is to open out backward areas to health modern influences and encourage forest tribes, scheduled castes and such like elements to advance *in thrift, education and quality of life*.

BILKHA

THE ancestors of Bilkha rulers are originally the descendants of Suryavanshi Rajputs. Then they came to be known as Vala Kathis because they married a Kathi girl in 1375. The Bilkha Rulers are descendants of the common ancestor of the Virani House. He had three sons Kanthad, Kumpo and Oghad of whom Oghadwala was the founder of his house. Oghad Virani had three sons, Ala, Chomla and Sata. Kanthadwala was the successor of Alawala and he having died without a male issue, his Estate has been succeeded by the present ruler, Darbar Shree Ravatwala, Chief of Bilkha. Chomla died without any issue. Sata had one son Bhima and Bhima had two sons Alawala and Desawala. Alawala had five sons viz, Ramwala, Khodwala, Dosawala, Odhawala, and Valerawala. The present Ruler of Bilkha, Darbar Shree Ravatwala is the eldest Kumar of Ramwala. He has one brother viz, Vala Hathia. Bala Khoda left one son Vala Laxman of Pipalla, who has died without any issue and the question of succession to this Estate is under consideration of the Government. Dosawala left one son Vala Vajsur who died without any male issue. Odhawala has left one son Bala Deva and Valerawala has left one son Vala Jiwa.

2. Thus the present Chief, Darbar Shree Ravatwala Ramwala is a Rajput Kathi of the Virani Branch of the family descending from Oghad Virani. He was born on the 19th January 1906. He was educated at the Rajkumar College at Rajkot and succeeded to the Estate of the late Darbar Shree Kanthadwala on 19th January 1928. He married in the same year. He has four sons viz, Yuvraj Shree Jaswant Singhji, the Heir apparent, K. S. Kishorsinghji, K. S. Ranjitsinghji and K. S. Harishchandrasinghji and two daughters viz Maharaj Kumari Shree Nandkunverba and Raj Kumari Shree Bhanukumariba. Maharaj Kumari Shree Nandkunverba has studied up to the Matriculation standard.

and will be appearing in the Matriculation Examination of the Bombay University this year. Amongst the Rajput Kathis, she is the first Maharaj Kumari to take English education. At first she took her education at the Panchgani Girls' High School, then at the Mission School at Rajkot c s and now she is taking education at the Vanita Vishram Girls' High School at Rajkot. The Ranisaheb, Bai Shree Devkunverba is a lady of high culture, religiousity and piety and she is not observing the Parda system. The Heir-apparent, who is the successor to the Bilkha Gadi was born on 19th November 1928. The Heir-apparent has taken English education first at the Panchgani Boys' High School, then at the Mayo College Ajmer and then at the Rajkumar College Rajkot, and he is now studying in the Matriculation class in the Chowdhry High School at Rajkot c s and possesses good knowledge of English and culture and he is very obedient to his father.

3 The Chief Saheb attended the reception held by His Excellency Lord Willingdon at Rajkot in 1936

4 He visited England for attending the Coronation Darbar of His Imperial Majesty at London in the year 1937 and he has toured on the whole Continent for acquiring personal knowledge of the people of the various countries. He had attended the reception at the Buckingham palace at London. Darbar Shree Kanthad Vala of Bilkha died in the year 1923, without any male issue and Darbar Shree Ravatwala, the present Chief of Bilkha placed his claim to succeed to his Taluka, while the other Bhagdars claimed the partition of the Giras according to the old Kathi custom of partition. The present Chief succeeded in getting the Rule of primogeniture applied to the Taluka of the late D S Kanthadwala. Thus he ascended the Gadi of his ancestral Estate, with the Taluka of late D S Kanthadwala on the 19th January 1928

5. The Chief of Bilkha was first a Shareholder of Jetpur-Bilkha but as a result of exchanges effected between the Jetpur Bhagdars, he now enjoys exclusive jurisdiction of the old IV class as a Ruler over the Bilkha State

6 The Alawala Group was first invested with old fifth class jurisdiction but when the present Chief got by primogeniture the Taluka of late D S Kantadwala he was invested with fourth class jurisdiction over this Group also as a personal distinction in 1928 and he is now exercising jurisdiction of the old IV class over the important towns of Bilkha, Medarda and Chital and Kunkavav Thus the Chief Saheb has rightly earned the title of "The Maker of modern Bilkha" and the Bilkha State has undergone a marvellous change during these years The Chief Saheb is a keen sportsman, taking a good deal of interest in riding, Cricket, Tennis, Billiards, Golf and Volley Ball He won the Rajkot Gymkhana 1939 Tennis Challenge Cup and Billiards Cup He has also won "The Gibson Volley Ball Challenge Shield" He possesses some of the best Kathi horses The Chief Saheb has shot more than a dozen lions and more than fifty panthers in our territory

7 The Yuvraj Saheb is also taking keen interest in the sports and has won "The Rajkot Gymkhana Tennis Championship Cup" in 1945 and he was a Captain in the Chowdhry High School XI and he has won the Sir Courtney Latimer Cup in 1944

8 There are five railway stations in Bilkha State viz, Bilkha, Kunkavav Junction, Kunkavav Town (two stations) Chital and Shedubhar and owing to this railway convenience, the people of these places are very happy and it is an advantage for the development of commerce and industry in the State

9 There is a trunk-road between Junagadh and Bilkha Bilkha is situated at about 14 miles from Junagadh and we are very near the Girnar-Hills

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There is a trunk road between Chital and Amreli and between Kunkavav Gondal and Kunkavav Bagasra and Medarda to Lushala

10 The State has got a power House in Bilkha There are three ginning factories and 16 oil mills and one saw mill in Bilkha State and the Chief Saheb is now thinking to have agricultural and industrial development in the State on new methods which are prevalent in other modern States We have got four dispensaries in Bilkha State for looking to the public health of the people

11 The National War Front was organised in the State in 1942 and the present Dewan has been specially asked to work as a leader and to do effective work on the National War Front Scheme A very important factor of the National War Front movement is "Grow More Food Campaign" This campaign has been given the utmost impetus in this State and the cultivators are asked to grow more food crop Recently he gave prizes to the cultivators who had given good income by better cultivation of crops

12 The State is taking keen interest in war services and has materially helped them by making the following monetary contributions towards different War Funds —

Rs 3,017-10 0 H E the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund

Rs 1,426 0 0 W I S Agency War Plane Fund

Rs 800 0 0 W I S Agency War Publicity Bureau

Rs 320 0 0 War Fund ten per cent of state's money from account of Kathiawar Races of the Chief Saheb and Her apparent

Rs 207 3 0 War Gazette

Rs 25 0 0 China day fund

One horse Bhagdata to H E the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund

One Holland and Holland Rifle

One 12 bore D B Gun War Fund

One Mauser Pistol

One 32 bore Revolver

One D B M L Gun

and he has helped the War Funds at every time

13 The Chief exercises the following jurisdictional powers

Civil —Suits upto the value of Rs 10,000

Criminal —Sentences upto 3 years rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs 5,000

The Capital of the State is Bilkha

14 The Chief Saheb has taken into his mind now to organise the whole State and appoint most competent and efficient officers in this State, by whose co-operation and help he is thinking to make Bilkha a model State. He is thinking to make a High School and a new Hospital on a big scale in a short time and wants to lay the foundation stone at the hands of His Highness Shree-mant Maharaja Sarkar Gaekwar. The present Officers on the new staff are as under —

- 1 Mr M H Udani, M A , LL B , Advocate of 30 years standing is appointed as Dewan in Bilkha State on Rs 700 p m
- 2 Mr C P Bhatt, B A , LL B , as Revenue Member and General Secretary on Rs 350 p m
- 3 Mr K V Shukla, an expert in all lines as General Member and Secretary to the Darbar Saheb on Rs 250 p m
- 4 Mr P D Kamdar, B A , LL B , Sar Nyayadhish on Rs 150 p m
- 5 Mr N M Kaji, B A LL B , Tutor & Companion to Yuvraj Saheb on Rs 135 p m

6. Mr. Gangasinhji Shivosinhji Jadeja, Superintendent of Police on Rs. 125 p.m.
7. Mr. V. D. Oza, Chief Medical Officer.
8. Mr. C. K. Fouzdar, Treasury Officer.
9. Mr. M. V. Parekh, B A.LL B., Chital-Kunkavav Nyayadhish.
10. Mr. M. G. Sinroja, Bilkha-Medarda Nyayadhish
11. Mr. Kavasji Hormasji Patel, Municipal Secretary and Vahivatdars for each of the Mahals and staff.

The staff is well organised under the personal direction of the present Dewan, who is taking keen interest in all the departments of the State.

A short sketch of the life and career of Mr. Manilal H. Udani, Dewan Saheb, Bilkha State, (taken from page 171 of the Royal Coronation Number and Who's Who in India Burma and Ceylon)

Udani Manilal Hackemchand, M A , LL B , Bombay F.L L C , M A (America), M D , (H) Calcutta, who is recently appointed as Dewan in Bilkha State is one of the leading advocates of Kathiawar and a prominent citizen of Rajkot C S His father was a magistrate in Jetpur for many years He belongs to a very respectable family and in the Jain Community He holds a high position Having passed Matric in 1902 from Rajkot, he took his B A in 1906, M A in 1908 and LL B , in 1911 from the Bombay University and received very high education and culture He started his profession as a Vakil in the High Court of Bombay from 1912 and was very successful at the Bar He took part in all Public Activities in Bombay and was one of the General Secretaries of the Bharat Jain Maha-Mandal He was spoken of highly for his intelligence and ability in papers even in those early days of his life In 1913 he was invited to Binaras especially for delivering lec-

tures in the Jain Conference in the Town Hall with Mrs Annie Besant, Dr Strauss, and Professor Jacobi and his lectures were very instructive. He came to Rajkot in 1916 and commenced his practice at the Rajkot Agency Bar and in Kathiawar as an Advocate. He had been very successful in his practice in Rajkot and Kathiawar and his activities in all the fields, for public good, are very well-known. He is spoken of highly by the Highest Judicial Officers and has a very brilliant career. He is specially taking an active interest in all social and religious activities and giving due help to them. He has done charities according to his might and has given great help in the construction of the Jatashankari Dharmashala on the Girnar Hills. Although born as a Jain he is a firm believer in the highest principles of Vedant.

He was nominated by the Hon'ble the A G G W I S Agency as one of the members of the Rajkot C S Committee from 1933 to 1936, as a member of the Water Works Committee in 1933. He was appointed as Legal Adviser to the Bajana State. He was appointed as Honorary Treasurer to the Red Cross Centre at Rajkot C S. He was appointed as Honorary First Class Magistrate and Vice President of the Bench, by the Hon'ble the Resident for the States of Western India Gujrat and Baroda from the 1st April 1944 till he joined the post of the Dewan of Bilkha State. He is a member of the Assessment Committee of the Rajkot C S Municipality and a non official Jail Visitor of the Agency Prison of Rajkot C S. He was given the Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935, by the Government on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Late Imperial Majesty. He is a well known writer and an eloquent orator. He has published three books viz, "Garland of Moral Precepts" which is translated into Gujarati and Hindi, 'Samaydharma' and "Atma-Vichar". He is taking keen interest in founding a Jain College in India. He was appointed as Special Huzur, Judge by the Rajkot State for disposing of some of the heavy appeals.

work and the State had expressed its full satisfaction for his work as a Judge.

His wife Surajbai is an intelligent lady and is taking part in social, religious, and Red Cross activities ; for some time, she worked as a lady helper in the Red Cross Centre at Rajkot C. S. She is always kind to the poor and giving them private help.

Mr. Udani holds a high public reputation in the States of Kathiawar and the Government, and has always done his work consciously and with zeal and integrity. He is appointed as Dewan in Bilkha State from the 6th December 1945 at the nomination of the Baroda Government and he is doing his work in the best interests of the Ruler and the Ruled and for the peace and prosperity of the State.

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BALASINOR

H. H. NAWAB SAHEB BABI SHRI JAMIATKHANJI BAHADUR the present Ruler of Balasinor State

Born 10th November 1894

Ascended the Gadi 31st December 1915

Educated At Rajkumar College, Rajkot where he took his Diploma Afterwards joined the Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun and passed out successfully. His Highness has been allowed the privilege of wearing the Corps uniform A Ruler of literary tastes and a well-known writer of Urdu and Gujarati poems Has a natural gift of writing plays and dramas which are very well liked in the province of Gujrat

Married First H. H. Begum Saheb Shri Subhan Bakhte Saheba (decd.) daughter of the Heir-apparent of Junagadh State At present His Highness has three Begum Sahebas (1) H. H. Shri Sardar Begum Saheba (2) H. H. Shri Khurshed-Begum Saheba (3) H. H. Shri Zohra-Begum Saheba The senior Begum Saheba, Sardar Begum Saheba, daughter of the late Thakor Saheb of Kervada, gave birth to a son in 1920 who unfortunately died in infancy The third Zohra-Begum Saheba has given birth to five daughters

The Nawab Saheb comes of a very ancient and well known Babi Sunni Pathan dynasty His ancestors were descendants of Sher Khanji Babi, son of Bahadur Khanji Babi a distinguished officer in the Imperial service at Delhi, who enjoyed a very high position at the time of the Mughal Emperors The Rulers of this clan have been famous throughout Gujarat and Kathiawar not for their princely pomp, dignity and splendour, but for their benevolent rule and munificence

Military Force —60 Cavalry, 177 Infantry and 10 guns

Permanent Salute :—9 guns. The Ruler has been granted a sanad of adoption. He is also a member of the Chamber of Princes in his own right and entitled to be received by H.E. the Viceroy. His Highness is a founder member of the Wellington Club and a life member of the W. I. A. A.

Balasinor is a second class State in the Bombay Presidency with high Civil and Criminal powers.

Area of the State :—189 Square miles. Population : 52,525 in 1931.

On the outbreak of the war His Highness placed his personal services and resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty presented an Ambulance Car and also made various cash contributions.

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BARIA

LIEUT -COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAO SHREE SIR
RANJITSINHJI, K C S I, Ruler of Baria

Born 10th July 1886

Educated At Rajkumar College Rajkot, Imperial
Cadet Corps College, Dehra Dun and in England

Married In 1905 Shrimant Taktakunverba Saheb
daughter of His late Highness the Maharaja of Rajpipla
In 1918 Shrimant Dilharkunverba Saheb, a niece of
His Highness the Maharaja Saheb of Rajpipla

Succeeded to the Gadi 28th February 1908 As-
sumed full ruling powers in May 1908

Served in France and Flanders (1914-18) and also
during the Third Afghan War (1919)

Son Captain (Hon) Maharaj Kumar Shree
Heerasinhji Maharaj Kumar Pradeep Singhji

The State pays no tribute either to the British
Government or any other State and receives the Chouth
of Dohad, Kalol and Halol Talukas of the Panch Mahals
from the British Government

Area Including attached States of Sanjeli 879
square miles

Population 202,055

Salute Permanent 9 , Personal 11

Recreation Pigsticking, Polo, Tiger-hunting, etc.

His Highness has placed all the resources of His
State at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for
the prosecution of the War , had made an annual
contribution of Rs 25,000 Rs 5,000 to the Red Cross
Fund , has also subscribed to Defence Bonds and has

generously contributed to various other funds connected with the War Total contribution Rs 5,50,516 The State Troops are serving under the Crown

ADMINISTRATION

Deewan DEWAN BAHADUR MOTILAL L PAREKH,
M A , LL B

Judge, Huzur Court I N MEHTA, B A , LL B ,
Bar-at-Law, J P

Raj-Kharch Officer CAPTAIN SARDAR KALLIAN
SINH

Sur Nyayadhisha and First Class Magistrate U J
SHAH ESQ , B A , LL B

Nyayadhisha and First Class Magistrate M V
SHETH ESQ

Medical Department DR J H KUMBHANI, M B B S ,
DTM , FCPS

Electrical Department M L PATEL ESQ , D H F H
(London)

P W Department C S MALKAN ESQ , B E (Civil),
A M I E

Education Department G L PANDYA ESQ , M A ,
B T

Banking Department K G KADAKIA, B A , LL B

Police Supdt —M L GHOWHAN

Forest Department S G PITHWA, D D R , B F S

CAMBAY

HIS HIGHNESS NAJAM-UD-DAULAR MUMTAZ-UL-MULK MOMIN KHAN BAHADUR DILVERJUNG NAWAB MIRZA HUSSAIN YAWAR KHAN BAHADUR, Nawab of Cambay (the first class State with powers to try capital offences) is a Mogul of Shiah Faith, of the Najam-e-Sani Family of Persia

Born —16th May 1911.

Succeeded to the Gadi on 21st January 1915 —Ascended 13th December 1930 with full powers

Educated —At Rajkumar College, Rajkot till April 1928, spent a year in Europe accompanied by his tutor and companion

Area of State —392 sq miles

Population —96,501 (Census 1941)

Revenue —Rs 9,67,000 (on the average of the last five years)

Salute —11 guns

Heir apparent —JANAB WALIAHAD BAHADUR NAWABZADA MIRZA MUHAMMAD JAFAR ALI KHAN, born 15th October 1936

Capital —Cambay with a population of 35,948 stands at the head of the Gulf of Cambay. The historically important buildings are the Lal Bagh where it is said the forces of the Mogul Emperor Akbar stayed when he visited Cambay, the Kothi where the East India Company established a factory in the year 1613 and the site known as Dil Khush the country seat of the then Nawab of Cambay, where now stands the Muslim Hostel. It was built in 1802 and planned and executed by Col C Reynolds, Surveyor General of Western India

Industries.—The State a Textile Mill and three Match Factories Besides, dressing of cornelian and agate and some precious stones is done

Political relations with the Government of India through the Resident for Baroda and the Gujarat States Baroda

Principal reforms existing in the State —

(1) All services pensionable, (2) Extension of survey and settlement to every village in the State (3) Primary education and Medical Relief free (4) Liberal endowments for the benefit of widows and destitute (5) Introduction of beneficial measures for the relief of Agricultural indebtedness (6) Village Panchayats in each villages (7) Independent High Court

His Highness has prescribed a schedule of subjects in which His Highness has plenary powers of disposal for joint deliberations with the Dewan

Dewan —RAI SAHEB S P MUSHRAN, MSc, Dewan, Cambay State

Military Secretary —NAWABZADA SIDI MOHAMED SALIM KHAN SAHEB

Administrative Assistant —M K REGE, BA, LLB

Sur-Nyayadlsh —SAGOONLAL C DESAI, BA, LLB

CHHOTA-UDEPUR

H. H. MAHARAJA SHRI NATWARSINHJI, FATEHSINHJI
Ruler of Chhota Udepur State in Gujrat

Born —16th November 1906

Succeeded to the Gadi —On 29th August 1923 Was invested with full powers on 20th June 1928

Educated —At Rajkumar College, Rajkot

Married —In 1927 Shri Padmakumar Basaheb, daughter of His late Highness The Maharaja Saheb of Rajpipla, and after her demise married on 5th December 1928 Shri Kusumkumar Basaheb daughter of H. H. The Maharaja Saheb of Rajpipla

H. H. is a member of the Chamber of Princes in his own right Visited Europe in 1926 and in 1937

Heir apparent —YUVARAJ SHRI VIRENDRASINHJI, born on 24th October 1937

Area of State —890.34 square miles

Population —162,292

Attached State —Gad Borad, area 126 sq. miles

Population —13,120

Gross Revenue —Rs. 16,83,290

Salute —9 guns

Clubs —Willingdon Sports Club, Bombay, Royal W. I. Turf Club, Bombay, British Union Club, London, S. F. Gymkhana, Chhota Udepur, The Cricket Club of India, Bombay

Recreation —Shooting, Cricket, Riding, etc

Tribute —The State pays as Ghasdana Rs. 7,805 to H. H. The Maharaja Gaikwad of Baroda and it

receives Tanka or tribute from the Estates of Chorangla and Gad.

There are manganese, galena and marble mines in the State. The State owns the Railway in its limits. There are telephone connections in the Town and Taluka Headquarters. In the capital there are electric and water works. There is also a Dak Bungalow.

Immediately on the declaration of War, His Highness placed at the disposal of His Majesty his personal services and the resources of the State.

Contributions :—Since the outbreak of War the following contributions have been sent from the State :—Rs. 830 to the Indian Red Cross Society. Rs. 1,16,196 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. Rs. 7,000 to the Gujarat States' Spitfire Plane Fund. Rs. 3,200 to Baroda Residency War Fete Fund. Rs. 675 Miscellaneous Funds. Rs. 350 for China Celebration Day. Rs. 5,80,200 Defence Loans. Rs. 950 Interest Free Bonds. Rs. 7,100 Defence Saving Certificates. Rs. 500 to Amenities Fund, Central and Taluka War Committees have been formed to further the war effort.

Principal Officers—

Commanding Officer :—MAJOR MAHARAJA NAHARSINHJI, Military Force.

Dewan :—RAO BAHADUR DHIRAJLAL H. DESAI, B.A.

Personal Assistant to the Dewan :—K. S. PRAKRASINHJI B.A.(Cantab.), Bar-at-Law.

High Court Judge :—L. C. Sheth, B.A., LL.B.

Revenue Officer :—K. N. PANINAGLORE, B.A., LL.B.

Dist. & Session Judge :—C. G. DESAI, B.A., LL.B.

First Class Magistrate & Nyayadhish :—M. S. APTE, B.A., LL.B.

Superintendent of Police :—K. S. RAISINGHI C. CHOWAN.

Chief Medical Officer and Jail Supdt. :—DR. R. M. DAVE, M.B.B.S. (Bom.) L.M.(Dublin, Z.U. (Vienna).

DHARANGADHRA

HIS HIGHNESS JHALADHIP MAHARAJADHIRAJ MAHARANA SHRI MAYURDHAWAJ SINHIJT, Maharaja Raj Sahib of Dharangadhra

Born —3rd of March 1923

Educated —First at Dharangadhra, proceeded to England in 1935 and joined Heath Mount School and afterwards Haileybury College (four years) At the outbreak of the War His Highness returned to India (1940) joined the St Joseph Academy at Delhra Dun and passed the School Certificate Examination (Oxford Cambridge Joint Board) in the first grade with distinction

Succeeded —His late Highness on the 1th February, 1942

Enthroned with religious ceremonial on the 15th February 1942 assumed the reins of Government at the termination of the minority on Deshera Day, 8th August 1943

Married —MAHARAJ KUMARI SHRI BRIJRAJ KUMARI, a daughter of H H the Maharaja Sahib of Jodhpur on 3rd March 1943 Her Highness was blessed with a son Namdir Yuvraj Maharaj Kumar Sahib Shri Shatruijt Deo, Her-apprent, on 22nd March 1944

Family —His Highness belongs to the Jhala clan of Rajputs The Jhalas had established Kingdoms in the Sind but through the vicissitudes of war they were obliged to enter Kathiawar Their domain extended beyond Viramgam which was called Jhalawara Being the guardians of the Northern marches of the peninsula they sustained repeated Muhammadan invasions and finally settled down in what is now called Jhalawara

Geographical —The State lies between the North Lat 23° 13', 22° 33' and East long 71° and 71° 48' and is 1,167 sq miles in area exclusive of the Runn of Dhrangadhra

Population —94 417

Revenue —Rs 25 00 000

Average Rainfall —20 inches

Chief Agricultural Products —Cotton, Jowar, Bajra and Wheat

Natural Resources —Store quarries

Industries —Extraction of salt from brine, manufacture of Soda Ash Soda Bicarb and Caustic Soda at Dhrangadhra Chemical Works Ltd

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the State is conducted by His Highness through an Executive Council appointed by him consisting of the following members —

Deputy President —DEWAN BAHADUR SIR HARI LAL GOSWAMI Kt M.A. LL.B

First Member —RAO SAHEB DULLABHJI C MEHTA, B.A., LL.B

Second Member —W. G. SUBHEDAR, B.Sc. LL.B

His Highness has introduced constitutional and administrative changes within a short period of less than a year since His Highness assumed the reins of Government

DHARAMPUR



H H THE MAHARAJA SAHEB OF DHARAMPUR

(1) *The Ruling House of Dharampur State*

ONE of the most progressive states in India, Dharampur State—occupies a tract of 704 square miles in area in Surat District in Gujarat particularly fertile in the West where the soil yields rich crops of many varie-

ties. The Last is less hospitable to cultivation tending to rockiness and thick jungles but there nature compensates with beauty. His Highness the Maharana Shree Vijavadevji Maharaja Sahib ascended the gadi in 1921. Complete identity of the interests of the Ruler and ruled are the words that will aptly and accurately characterise the policy of the present Maharana Sahib classified as a second class State. Dharampur stands highest amongst the other relative states in India. In population, area and revenue it contrasts favourably with several states already ranked as first class. In historical importance, efficiency of administration and loyal subjects to the King Emperor, Dharampur has a record in proportion to its resources worthy of lineage and descent of its ruling house. Small wonder the state lays claim to the permanent status of first class a distinction carrying with it the value of 11 guns in the honour of dynasty. His Highness' both predecessors were both accorded the same 'sena' recognition of their personal significance as rulers. The permanent award amounts to no more than what is due to a progressive and enlightened dynasty. His Highness is a Sisodia Rajput of Survavanshi (Solar) race. In epics of Rajput chivalry the reputation of Sisodia as evidenced from the past history of this ancient state stands out head and shoulders in the magnificent tale of dauntless courage, unstinting sacrifice and unfailing loyalty. His Highness is the Member of the Chamber of Princes in his own right, has full civil and criminal jurisdictional powers and a personal salute of 11 guns. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib is a keen devotee of art and music. His artistic tendency has materialised in monumental Volumes I and II on Indian Music known as Sangit Bhav. Volumes I & II and published in two European and two Indian languages. His earnest desire to see a united and all India movement on behalf of the Musical heritage of the nation has done a great deal to stir up popular interest and enthusiasm. His laudable efforts to have music recognised in the curriculum of Bombay University are sure to be crowned with success. His

travels taken for the purposes of enlarging his views and gaining fresh knowledge and experience are extensive over the world. Amongst His Highness' other hobbies is a love of Shukar at which he is a well known exponent. The help of the state in men, money and materials in the last world war as well as the present war was by no means negligible and the resources of the State were placed at the disposal of British Government in consonance with the true traditions of the ruling house. His Highness is blessed with four children. The eldest Prince Narhardev is 35 years old. Out of the other three children of His Highness all daughters the eldest Maharaj Kumari Dharamkumverba was married to His Highness the Maharaj Sahib Sir Harisinghji Sahib the present ruler of Kashmir and Jammu. She died in 1938. A S Maharaj Kumari Jiswantkumverba Sahib married to Maharaj Sahib of Nagod. The youngest named Churanji Maharaj Kumari Rajendra Kumverba Sahib is still at school.

(2) *Modern Progress of Dharampur State*

Dharampur State has made rapid progress in the sphere of the constitutional reforms by associating the people with the administration of the departments under Municipal Council, Medical Education Agricultural and Industrial development roads and communications by following the enlightened policy of steady advance towards realising the ideals of prosperity plenty and progress in the State. It has been the persistent and constant endeavour of His Highness the Maharaj Sahib to bring Dharampur to the forefront of the most progressive states in India through his liberal and enlightened policy designed for the welfare of his subjects as will be evidenced from the following review of the measures and reforms that have been adopted in the State. The state has adopted measures for ameliorating the conditions of his subjects by a liberal policy of education medical relief the reform of judiciary, care for the advancement of backward classes, maintenance of roads and communications and rural deve-

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lopment, maintenance of the Leper asylum and the opening of the library amidst the most picturesque and natural surroundings.

With a view to associate the people more closely with the administration of the Municipal, council n Municipal Act has been passed—introducing the elective element based on liberal and adult franchise giving a clear majority of elected members. These representatives have a share and voice in the departments administered by the Municipal council. The Municipal Council responsible for the conservancy and sanitation of the town and also administers and supervises the work of education and Medical Departments. It can be stated without the least hesitation that it has been a measure of the great constitutional reforms towards the development of the Local Self-Government. In keeping pace with the changing times the State has not lagged behind in giving powers to the Village Panchayats in rural areas, which enable them to supervise and administer their own villages. With that object in view the Dharampur village panchayat Act has already been promulgated. The Panchayats have played dominant part in creating congenial atmosphere amongst villagers through mutual aid and co-operation settling disputes amongst themselves, fastening growth of brotherly feelings and in promoting health, education, comfort, convenience and social and economic well-being of the inhabitants of the village.

To educate the public mind and prepare it for better life and cultured mode of living is more essential and to this end the proper education of the rising generation both the boys and girls is absolutely necessary. The progress of education made in recent years has been far surprising and the enormous expenditure that is being spent after it will reveal the importance and the attention being devoted to it by the State. Depressed and backward class pupils are given free books and monthly scholarships in special cases. There are 35 primary schools and a full-fledged High-School in the

State The state spends nearly 10 thousand rupees after these institutions The state has been following the liberal policy of giving scholarship for higher studies with a view to affording facilities to aboriginals to get High School education the state has already started a hostel for such candidate The State bears the whole expense of this charitable institution The State maintains an industrial institute which trains pupils in carpentry, weaving, smithy wood and cane work, and practical mechanics Stipends are being liberally granted to poor deserving students In these days the importance of technical education cannot be overlooked and a head has been taken in the initiation of the vocational bias in the educational field

Rapid studies have been made in the development of the medical relief on the most progressive and modern methods which indicate the sympathetic and enlightened policy pursued by the State in that direction several hospitals and dispensaries are maintained bringing medical relief within easy reach of the population The Medical Institutions are equipped with modern medical surgical and electrical appliances which include X Ray apparatus Diathermy Shortwave apparatus Pantostate Ultra Violet Rays Infra red, Pyhorrea machine Iron lungs etc and adequate attention is being paid for the development on the most progressive and modern methods of treatment They bear ample testimony to the fact of the remarkable progress made by bringing this institution into line with the most modern institutions elsewhere All treatment medical surgical electrical is free including treatment of patients at their homes by Doctor free of any charges There is also A S Manjerkunverba Aushadhivaya in the town and the facilities afforded are availed of by orthodox and Raniparaj people who have great faith in Ayurvedic medicines The annual expenditure incurred after the medical relief is Rs 30 000

His Highness the Maharaja Sahib has amassed a curious and comprehensive collection of the objects of

artistic and utilitarian value with a view to arousing an artistic sense amongst his people and stimulating their creative industry. These have been exhibited in the Lady Wilson Museum in order that the riots may have before them specimens for study and their produce useful articles in course of time. It has opened the wider wishes of life and has proved to be the source of great educational and instructive value.

The State has been conscious to the cardinal fact that to increase the prosperity of the State, the improvement of its lands and methods of agriculture is essential. Practical steps have already been taken to improve the lot of cultivators in many directions. The State has been pursuing a very liberal policy in granting seeds and supply of artificial manure and chemical fertilizers to the agriculturists at concession rates and is offering subsidy to encourage the construction of new wells and bunds for irrigational purposes. Takavi is given freely at low rate of interest for the improvement of the agricultural lands. The Khatedars have been granted rights of the forest tress over their holdings which has been a considerable advancement in the benefits bestowed on the agriculturists. Necessary steps have been taken to prevent subdivision and fragmentation of the lands so that the holding may be an economic one from the production point of view. A rural development has been created with a view to organise rural reconstruction of the village life from a cultural and humanitarian point of view. Intensive uplift work has been carried out in several selected villages which include improvement in agriculture by use of scientific methods, live stock improvement, the development of cottage industries, village co-operation, village sanitation and the formation of panchayats.

The State has not been slow to recognise the indebtedness of the agriculturists and the Dharampur State Agriculturists Relief Act has been passed which is intended to protect the agriculturists not only against the rapacity of money lenders but also against the

adventitious circumstances which are likely to operate to the prejudice of an agriculturist on account of his ignorance. The Co-operative Society Act of British India has been applied to the State and many seeds as well as credit societies have been formed on a co-operative basis. The advantages that have been accrued has proved to be of far reaching importance in the development of the spirit of co-operation in the various spheres of economic activities.

The industries of the State are foregoing a head. The State already possesses two rice mills in the State. The State abounds in vast natural resources of the raw materials which could easily be exploited with great advantage. In view of the abundant material and easy availability of the raw material, the establishment of paper-factory, saw mill, sugar factory and dairies could easily be accomplished, fact holding out bright and favourable prospects. The State has been consistently following a liberal policy of affording every facility to those enterprising people who should be willing to develop those industries in the State which are under its active consideration. The State has passed the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 as amended up-to-date on the same lines as the corresponding British India legislation.

Forest Wealth :—Over 100 varieties of rice out of the 32% of the State's aggregate area, and over 70 varieties of Timber from the State forests spreading over 34% of State's total area, constitute an important source of wealth of Dharampur. Timber brings a large revenue, and the port of BHAGDA BUNDER, near Bulsar (on the B. B. & C. I. Railway 18 miles from Dharampur) forms the western outlet to the Arabian Sea for the products of Dharampur.

Export Trade :—Good quality catechue is manufactured and the export in the past years has been considerable. There is also an evergrowing export-trade in (i) oil seeds, such as castor, Mahuti, Kursani, Karanj etc. (ii) Tanning materials such as Achhvel,

Harda, Chilari-bark etc. (iii) Medicinal herbs like Myrabolan and (iv) high species of gum such as Babul, Biyo, Kandol, Sadado, Dhamodo etc.

Bamboo is an important export commodity of the State forests ; and besides serving as an ideal building material, this serves well for the manufacture of Baskets and Mats and many such useful articles.

Industrial Activity :—Side by side with the improvement in agriculture, post-war industrial activity is not left unnoticed. Greater facilities for milling rice, pulses and extracting oil, are assured for the people by the opening of the more mills within the State.

The State abounds in rich grass and bamboo ; and the alluvial lands on the banks of the rivers running through the State provide excellent opportunity for the opening of a good paper factory.

Simultaneously with this, the construction of a dam across the river adjoining the site selected for the paper factory, will help superb irrigation facilities, encouraging sugarcane cultivation etc. resulting in the automatic emergence of a full-fledged Sugar Factory also

The State has always been alive to the fact that the roads are of the permanent importance for the development of agriculture, industries, social services and commerce and with that object in view it has devoted more attention to the development of road construction. There is a fair weather motorable road running within the State covering about 40 miles which connects Peint taluka in Nasik District. There exist also many feeder roads which link the interior villages with the main arteries of the transport. The construction of feeder roads have played great part in the development of rural economy by bringing a new atmosphere to the districts and conferring benefits to the community. The State has good roads covering about 15 miles and is maintaining them at considerable cost

Almost all the parts of the State are now linked up by telephones. There is a telephone between Dha-

rampur and Bulsar and Dharampur is also connected with Bombay by a special telephone and thus with other cities on the trunk line. This development of telephone system has already been proved to be most advantageous to the administration and the subjects of the State and it cannot be doubted that further benefits must accrue from it

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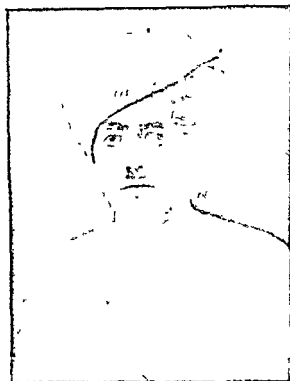
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GONDAL

SKILLED in rowing, the oarsman has taken up the oars his father Maharaja Bhagvatsinhjee left on the 9th March 1944. As duck takes to water the old Etonian has begun gently to start on the voyage of the Ship of the State. The pilot has good experience Maharaja Bhojrajji has enjoyed the full benefit of the very cream of English education and superior culture that Eton, Balliol and Oxford could provide.

The formative years of Bhojrajji were very carefully planned for educative purposes by his great father whose far-seeing eye had foreseen the wisdom with his usual practical sense of reality and sagacity that the heir-apparent's education and bringing up should be the best available in the world, as the future burden of ruling the State was to be borne by him



H H THE MAHARAJA SAHEB
of GONDAL

So from his very infancy till he grew to be twenty, England was his home and the best training was given. The young Oxonian returned after receiving good education to start with, but this was not enough for a

future Ruler's training, so the late Maharaja began to initiate him in the art of administration. He associated himself in almost every question and every detail of the various departments of the State. It was a carefully planned programme in getting him this very useful experience.

Bhagvatsinhjee kept two ideals in view for securing the training of his son—the Ruler must have as a maxim of life *Noblesse Oblige*, the second being, to maintain the administrative efficiency of the great Civil Service—Standard of the Public Service of the British Empire and British India. It is the pride of service that they govern the British Empire by training the Eton boys and Oxford young men. Not only Waterloo was won on the Cricket field of Eton but the sea-pilots who serve the Empire, are sent from the Public Schools of Eton, Harrow and Rugby, and from the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The filling presence of the commanding personality of Bhojraji and the freshness of polish of English life gave him a dignity and a certain method and skill in tackling and executing the problems of the State administration. This advantage was utilised to the full by his father when he first made him his private Secretary, then he put him in charge of the Educational Department, then in the Public Works Department where a full programme of works of public utility was to be worked out, finishing that, the Railway portfolio was given to him. The Revenue Department came last in his charge.

Thus Bhojraji's training was so varied, and so perfect that had he been an ordinary I.C.S. he would have slowly risen to the rank of a high executive post of a Lieutenant Governor or in his age of nationalisation of service a Governor of a Province. So soundly he was grounded.

The young Prince gave such good promise of a bright future career that so exacting a task master as

father Bhagvatsinhjee placed him in the year 1907, in joint charge of the State during his absence in England, it was a circumstance unprecedented in the annals of Indian States of the Presidency. During the interval the Yuvaraj "conducted the affairs of the State smoothly and with due regard to the welfare of the people."

After this he has maintained an intelligent interest in the conduct of Gondal administration till he took up the oars his illustrious father left on the ninth day of March.

Bhojraji Saheb was born in 1883, that is, he is ripe both in age and experience. The ripe man fills the void created by his revered father's demise, and Gondal takes the change of pilots and their personalities without a jolt and jar which are usually felt when a "*fresher*" has to assume the burden of the State.

Experience and age have mellowed the outlook on life and its problems rendering the task of administration easier therefore. Thus has ushered the New Era in Gondal with high hopes and a promise of lofty endeavours as it could, naturally, be expected from a worthy father's noble Son—Maharaja Bhojraji.

EARLY HISTORY OF GONDAL

Kathiawar has rung for centuries with echoes of Shree Krishna's deeds. Here the great Hindu god, descended from *Indu* or *Chandrama* (the moon), retired after crushing the *dutyas* (demons) that harassed the people inhabiting the region lying along the banks of the holy Jamna round about Muthura (*Anglice* Muttra) and Brindaban.

Rajputs (literally "the kings' sons") belonging to several clans claim descent from Shree Krishna and are known as *Chandravamsi* or *Yadavas* (of the lunar race). Many of the ruling dynasties in Kathiawar are sprung from that stock.

One hundred and twenty-fourth in descent from Shree Krishna was a mighty warrior, Shree Kumbhoji,

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born in the middle of the seventeenth century. The lean prospects that lay before a younger son of the Ruling House at Rajkot did not satisfy him. At the head of a few trusty clansmen he marched to the south and west, conquering every obstacle he met and securing the ready submission of the people dwelling in the villages he brought under his sway.

This warrior's great-grandson outshone him. Named after, he is known as "*Bha*" (or "father"). Kumbhoji, to distinguish him from the founder of the House

Even before ascending the throne in 1753 he, as the right-hand man of his father, the Thakore Sahib Halaji, had extended the boundaries of the State. After his succession he might have stretched his territory to the Arabian Sea for but the resistance organized by Amarsi, the resourceful Nagar *Dewan* (Prime Minister) of the Muslim Nawab of Junagadh

During the later year of his life he concentrated his attention upon consolidating the gains he had made. He stationed at the outposts barons who could deal swiftly with invaders. The men who thus helped him to make his dominions safe against aggression might have proved troublesome had they been permitted to live in idleness in the capital.

Internal peace was safeguarded by strengthening the ramparts enclosing a village. Guards were posted in each *kotha* (guard house) built over the gate leading into the settlement, ready to grapple with any intruder who might dare to disturb the rural peace.

Kumbhoji was as great a statesman as he was a tactician. To keep himself informed as to what was happening in the remotest corners of his territory he used to steal out of his fort, clad in the coarse homespun worn by the *kheduts* (peasants).

One day as he was returning after such an excursion he came upon a cultivator driving a cart loaded with

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household and personal effects. Evidently the fellow was removing from one place to another.

It had been raining for days and the road was deeply rutted. The wheels of the heavy cart had sunk in the mud up to the hubs. Hard though the oxen pulled, it would not move.

The peasant, not recognizing the Thakore Sahib, asked him for help. Without hesitating Kumbhoji lent him a hand. Stooping, he exerted his immense strength and lifted the cart out of the mire.

As the two sat side by side resting after their exertions, the Thakore Sahib wished to know where the fellow was going. The man broke out into a frenzy of imprecations. He cursed Gondal and everybody connected with it. Finding this neighbours troublesome and the officials rapacious, he was shifting to another State where he expected to be treated more justly.

Kumbhoji judged, from his appearance, that he was thrifty, hard-working, honest and manly—just the sort of subject he liked to have—and felt loath to lose him. He therefore tried to turn aside his wrath with soft words and to persuade him to go back to his old home.

But the man was thoroughly soured. He would not be dissuaded.

Finally, losing patience Kumbhoji exclaimed :

“Very well, go. The next time your cart gets stuck in the mud, see if the Raja of your new State will help you to lift it out.”

For the first time the peasant realized who is helper really was and with whom he had been permitted to converse as an equal. Contrite, he turned his oxen back towards the village he had been quitting. Soon afterwards all his wrongs were redressed.

On another occasion Kumbhoji noticed that a cultivator who was conveying the State share of his

produce to the official store-house was driving a yoke of very emaciated oxen. Calling him to his side he asked why he had permitted his bullocks to get into such a decrepit condition.

The farmer replied that he was so poor that he should not properly feed his wife and children, let alone the oxen. The Thakore Sahib sent him home with the injunction not to come again until he could come in a cart drawn by a yoke of oxen as strong of those of his neighbours.

The officials were aghast. They had never heard of revenue being remitted on such grounds.

The Ruler, noticing their consternation, explained to them that his strength lay in the prosperity of his subjects. With strong, well-fed animals, the farmer would be able to grow larger crops and the treasury, in the long run, would benefit through the increased share of the grain it could receive.

The prophecy came true to the letter. The cultivator returned, three years later, with bullocks and produce that amazed the officers.

It is told of Kumbhoj that one day he came upon a Vaghari* woman with all her belongings on her head, going away from a village in the Dhoraji district. Apprehensive that she was in trouble, he asked her what was the matter.

She replied that she was a seller of *baral* tooth-brushes. Taking offence at something she had done, the *patel* (headman) of her village had ordered her to clear out.

The Thakore Sahib bade her return home. Sending for the *patel* he took him to task for having ill-treated the woman. It was no crime, he declared, for a woman to sell tooth-brushes. Her profession was humble, but she performed a necessary function in the village.

* *Vaghari*—a hardy tribe, generally of nomadic disposition.

and since she was a useful member of the community, she should be encouraged and helped, not oppressed and driven away

Kumbhoj lived in a fort built on the left bank of a small stream—the Sufra—flowing through a fertile tract, alongside a small settlement—Dhoraji, now the largest town in Gondal. It served as his residence and also as the civil and military nerve-centre of his Principality

“*Navachauki*,” they called the castle, *Nav* mean “nine” and *chauki* “guards.” To enter the fort one had to pass guards mounted at nine posts and nine times run the risk of being challenged and stopped

The stream alongside which this castle stood has recently been diverted as a part of a costly scheme of town improvement. It is nevertheless possible to visualize the pretty sight that the round-bastioned pile must have made as it was reflected in the waters of the rivulet when it was full

The principal chamber in the apartments occupied by the Raja was richly decorated by artists of those days. Every inch of the wall space was covered with mythological figures painted in yellow and black on a dark red background

One of its windows to-day looks upon a lane leading from the riverside gate of the castle. On the left is a mosque used as a place of worship largely by Memons and Bohrahs—Muslims noted for their mercantile acumen and enterprise. The gods and goddesses of the Hindu Ruling Dynasty are enshrined within the fort, almost under the shadow of the minarets from which the *muezzin*, calls five times a day, upon the followers of the Prophet of Islam to pray

In this place, on October 24, 1865, the subject of this memoir was born. Birth in such surroundings was of happy augury to one destined to rule over a population of diverse races and creeds

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The father of the boy—the Thakore Sahib Shree Sagramjee—was fifth in descent from the founder of the Gondal House. He was a remarkable man. With the strength of a giant he combined the gentle spirit of a saint. Many stories are current illustrative of his kindness towards erring humanity.

It is related, for instance, that on one occasion a goldsmith was at work in the Palace making ornaments. The Rani Sahiba kept untiring watch over him lest he might steal some of the gold in which he was setting precious stones. Compelled to absent herself for a few minutes, she asked her husband to take her place and, knowing his indulgent nature, cautioned him to be on the alert.

The goldsmith was a shrewd man. Feeling sure that the Thakore Sahib would do nothing that would get into trouble, he brazenly abstracted a lump of gold and secreted in about his person.

Upon her return the Rani Sahiba inquired if the goldsmith had been working “all right,” while she was gone.

“Quite all right,” was her husband’s response.

The lady never learnt of the misdeed that had been committed in her absence. His Highness preferred to lose a little gold rather than injure the man by revealing his theft.

Sagramjee was persuaded, a few years after coming to the throne, to permit his son, the Rajkumar Shree Prithiraj to govern the State in his name and leave him free to carry on his devotions without interruption. The arrangement suited a man of his disposition admirably.

Prithiraj was a typical Rajput of that day—high-spirited, fond of sports and interested in affairs of state. Judged by the standards of those times he had received a good education and was refined in his manners. His ambitious mother—Bai Shree Ramba had him

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affianced to three Kathiawar princesses blonging to important ruling families The triple wedding celebrated with great pomp, cost the State Rs 4,50,000.

Unfortunately the arrangement could not last. First the Rani Sahiba, without whose manœuvring Prithiraj would never have become the *de facto* Ruler of the State, died In 1864 the young man himself passed away without leaving issue

Complications followed Prithiraj's death Sagram-jee found it necessary to go to Bombay to straighten out one of these tangles While there he was taken suddenly ill and passed away on December 14, 1869

As related earlier, a little less than four years prior to his death a son had been born to him The mother of this Kumar was Shree Monghiba Sahiba, the daughter of Jhala Sartanjeo of Minapur, whom Sagram-jee had married after the Rani Ramba's death

She was of a deeply religious nature, yet her feet firmly planted upon the earth Descended from a long line of warrior princes, she had been taught to regard the weal of the people as her weal—their woe as her woe

She had an abiding faith in Vedantic philosophy, especially as it was expounded by Swami Narayana This holy man had been born in Upper India, not far from Ayodhya, imperishably associated in the Hindu mind with Shree Ramachandra, believed to have been descended from Surya, (the Sun god) Orphaned before he had entered his teens, he wandered from one sacred place to another, learning Sanskrit and through it the various systems of philosophy evolved in India since the misty morn of civilization

By the time he had made his way to Kathiawar he was advanced in life and acclaimed as a man of great learning and piety Followers flocked to him from northern and western India

Almost to his dying day he spent the best part of the year travelling about the country preaching ethics and inspiring every one who heeded his words to lead a life of rectitude. The essence of the faith inculcated by this modern *rishi* (sage) was purity of conduct.

So strict were the rules governing the monastic order he founded that the monks were prohibited from having any dealings of whatever kind with any woman. They were not permitted to possess money even for religious or charitable purposes. They were obliged to beg for their food and to receive it in a wooden bowl, of which they were allowed to possess but one. All eatables were to be jumbled together and water was to be sprinkled upon them, so as to make them unpalatable.

As a follower of Swami Narayana, Bai Shree Mongiba led a simple life, even though she dwelt in a palace. She rigorously curtailed her needs and devoted herself to religious exercises and good deeds.

Her association with holy men had so broadened her intellectual horizon that her views particularly regarding women, were far in advance of her time. She thought that it was silly to look upon education as the exclusive privilege of men merely because they were the bread-winners of the family. As the mothers of the nation women, she felt, had an important function to fulfil in society and their minds should, therefore, be enlightened, if for no other purpose than to enable them to discharge their conjugal and maternal responsibilities.

She took keen interest in a school named after her -established in Gondal in January 1858, for imparting instruction to girls. It was the first institution of its kind in the whole of Kathiawar which, as will be shown later, was particularly backward in educational matters.

Owing to the ignorance that prevailed it was feared that little use would be made of the facilities

provided at the Shree Mongiba School, as it was named. Persons belonging to the genteel classes who might well have been expected to set the example, were indifferent towards education. They also believed in keeping their women "behind the curtain." The enlightened attitude of the first lady of the State however disarmed suspicion.

This Rani bore only two children, the Rajkumari Shree Majirajba, who, in conformity with the custom was married at a tender age to the Thakore Sahib of Bhavnagar, and Shree Bhagvat Sinhjee. The name given to the boy reflected her deeply religious nature.

Shree Gunatitananda—a saint belonging to the order founded by Swami Narayana—suggested, at her request, "Bhagvat Prasad," meaning "Gift of God." It was altered to Bhagvat Sinhjee to suit dynastic requirements.

Sinha (lion) is used as a surname by many fighting clans in India. "*Jee*" serves as an honorific suffix.

Bhagvat Sinhjee inherited from his father physical endurance which enabled him to put forth prodigious exertions even at an age regarded in India as old and his broad charity towards human frailties. He owed to his mother the financial genius, the love for extreme simplicity of living and the deep regard for all sentient creatures that have characterized him throughout his life.

The Government of Bombay fixed August 25, 1884, as the date for handing over the administration of the State to Bhagvat Sinhjee. Sir James Fergusson, who, with the unanimous consent of his Councillors, had ordered the transfer, was, much to his regret, prevented by other duties from being present. He deputed Colonel E. W. West to represent him.

AN ACCOUNT OF TWENTY FIVE YEARS RULE OF THE
LATE SIR BHAGVAT SINHJEE

Monarchs who live to complete a quarter of a century's rule generally mark the occasion with jubilation. Wearing rose-tinted glasses, they sit on high pedestals and make the events in which they take pride whirl past them in an ostentatious procession from which every thing untoward that may have occurred is rigidly excluded.

Sometimes it happens however that a ruler who has passed the twenty-fifth milestone of his reign is capable of turning his gaze inwards. He examines the record of his administration in a detached manner, much as a surgeon does his patient's symptoms. He does not ignore, or even undervalue, his achievement, nor does he shut his eyes to things left undone or that might have been done better.

The completion of a quarter of a century of rule was to Bhagvat Sinhjée, with his highly developed faculty for introspection, not a moment for exultation but a time for prayer and thought. He fervently thanked Providence for carrying his State and him through years of tribulation and took stock of his administration to determine the nature and scope of the reforms that he might effect for his people's benefit.

He had an infallible standard by which to gauge the record of his 25 years' rule. On the threshold of power he, of his own motion, had solemnly promised that

- (1) life and property in the State should be protected ,
- (2) justice and order should prevail ,
- (3) the agricultural classes should be permitted to enjoy the fruits of their labour ,
- (4) the merchants should be enabled to reap the fullest benefit from trade ,

- (5) roads should be improved and other communications facilitated ,
- (6) education should be encouraged ,
- (7) Provision should be made for the sick poor.
- (8) He had also given an undertaking that the study of the needs of his people would be his chief care , and that
- (9) their contentment and happiness would be his chief reward

Thrown into a sea heaving with mountainous billows of flattery, he had schooled himself to take a calm, prudent measure of the situation with which he was confronted. As will be apparent from a speech that will be dealt with a little later, he knew that while he had made considerable progress towards his self-appointed destination, he yet had a long way to go. The objective, in fact, seemed to him to recede as he advanced towards it for as he grew older and acquired experience his ideas and ambitions developed and he found it increasingly difficult to satisfy himself.

His people however, knew how better off they were on August 25, 1909, than they had been 25 years earlier. They also could compare their own condition with that of their neighbours and find great satisfaction in making that comparison. The completion of a quarter of a century's reign by their Ruler was therefore a moment of unalloyed joy for them.

A committee of influential citizens was formed months earlier, to organize the festival in a manner befitting the occasion. Mr Bezant was invited to come from Rajkot, where he was devoting his time and money to succouring the poor and needy, to serve as the president of this body. Having seen the Thakore Sahib develop from a novice into an energetic, efficient Ruler, strict in exacting work but considerate, appreciative and kind towards the humblest of his employees, he was only too happy to answer the summons.

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It was decided by the committee that while August 25 would be observed as a holiday throughout the State and celebrations would be held at that time, the chief functions of festivity would be postponed until the last week of October, when Bhagvat Sinhjee would enter the 46th year of his life. At their request October 24, 25 and 26 were to be devoted to this purpose.

The rejoicings began on August 25 at sunrise, with the firing of a salute of 25 guns—one for each year's rule. At eight o'clock candied sugar was distributed to all the school children in the State. At noon the inmates of the Bai Sahib Ba Asylum and the Bhagvat Sinhjee Orphanage were feasted. A rich repast was served to the prisoners in the Gondal jail through the thoughtfulness of Sheth Nurmahmad Ahmad, and poor persons were provided with food by the Hindu and Muslim merchants.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the State officials went to the "Huzur Bungalow" to offer congratulations to His Highness. A long procession, consisting of people professing various faiths, carrying flags and pennons and headed by a band, followed them. His Highness, accompanied by his consort and children, received them and thanked them heartily for their good wishes.

The capital was brilliantly illuminated at night. His Highness, with his family, drove through the streets in the State carriage. They were greeted everywhere by enthusiastic crowds who loudly cheered them. As they passed, well-to-do persons threw silver coins and women standing in the balconies of their houses showered flowers and rice upon them in conformity with custom half as old as time.

The Hindus in the temples, the Jains in their *upashrayas* and the Muslims in their mosques, were, at the same time, invoking God to bless their Ruler with long life and happiness. As the royal equipage

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proceeded at a snail's pace, it was stopped by representatives of the various sections of the community at their respective places of worship and floral and other offerings were made to them. At the Nilkanth temple the Brahmans who had assembled there recited appropriate Vedic hymns. Crowds of cheering people followed His Highness in his progress through the town.

The joy of the people was augmented by the boons announced in the *Durbari Gazette* issued that morning. The most important among them was the abolition of customs duties. It removed the only fetter that hampered trade. While of direct advantage to merchants, its benefits were calculated to percolate to the humblest Gondal.

Bhayats and Mulgrasias were freed from the payment of debts due to the State of a date prior to Samvat 1900, (1884 A.D.) about which no special orders had been passed.

Jivaidar's holdings had previously been liable to forfeiture in case they died without leaving a son. In future, in such cases, if a *Jivaidar* left a uterine brother, the *jwai* would descend to the latter, provided he resided in Gondal territory in conformity with his status.

State servants were given increments in their salaries.

All holders of charitable grants were given one month's allowance.

Cultivators were relieved of the obligation to pay the instalment of land revenue due in January 1910.

Each prisoner was remitted one twenty fifth of his term of imprisonment. The period of life imprisonment was thereafter to be counted as 25 years.

To encourage higher education, an annual prize of Rs. 500 was promised to any girl passing the matriculation examination from any of the Gondal schools,

and any Gondali boy who, after completing his studied in a school in the State, obtained a professional qualification during any year, was to be given Rs 1,000

Each member of His Highness' family received a present of Rs 5,000

The celebrations on August 25 were however only a foretaste of those that were to take place two months later. Procession after procession passed through the streets on their way to the "Huzur Bungalow" to offer their felicitations to His Highness. The most important among them consisted of the Hindu Mahajans, the Muslim *Jamat*, officials, Kumars of the Grasia College carrying banners, students of the Segramjee High School, Cavalry, foot police, and the State band. It was joined, *en route*, by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Bhavnagar, who had arrived at 10 A M on that day and had been received at the railway station by the Thakore Sahib, the Yuvaraja, State officials and members of the Reception Committee which had specially invited him. A guard of honour and a band had been in attendance and a salute of eleven guns was fired as he alighted from the train. Accompanied by an escort of the Body-Guard, he had been conducted to the residence provided for him near the "Huzur Bungalow."

Shree Lakhajee Raj, The Thakore Sahib of Rajkot, also specially invited by the people, arrived by motor a couple of hours later.

At four o'clock in the afternoon on the 25th of October, the ceremony of presenting the people's Address took place.

A *shamiana* had been specially constructed in the octagon between the Grasia College and the Thakore Sahib's statue. The streets and buildings in that vicinity were decorated. The principal arch was made of evergreens and flowers and bore on the one side the inscription "The Ruler of the Taxless People, Wel-

come," and on the other the words "Happy People, Happy Ruler"

The approaches to the *shamiana* were densely crowded. Over 4,000 persons packed the pavilion to its utmost capacity long before 4-30 P M—the hour fixed for the presentation. They included the visiting Rulers, officials, *Bhayats*, *Mulgrasias*, *Juaidars*, cultivators, Hindu and Muslim merchants, other notabilities and newspaper representatives.

Her Highness the Rani Sahiba, accompanied by the Yuvaraj, the Yuvarajni, the Princess Bakunverba and the Princess Leilaba, arrived by car at exactly four o'clock and were conducted to the dais. Immediately after them came the Maharaja of Bhavnagar and the Thakore Sahib of Rajkot, escorted by the Gondal Body-Guard. Received with the salutes and other honours that were their due, they were given seats near the members of the Royal Family. They were followed by Kumar Shree Ravat Khachar of Jasdan and his daughter.

A deputation consisting of the President of the Central Committee, had, in the meantime, gone to the "Huzur Bungalow" to invite His Highness. Without keeping them waiting even for a moment, he, escorted by the Body Guard, started and reached the *shamiana* at 4-15 P M. A salute of eleven guns was fired and a guard of honour drawn up with the State band at the entrance presented arms.

People showered flowers on the Thakore Sahib as he moved towards the dais. Raja and commoner rose and remained standing until he took his seat.

The Address read by Mr. Bezoni recounted, in simple language, His Highness' achievements during the past twenty five years. Since much of the ground has been covered in the chapters that have preceded this, it is necessary only to direct attention to the salient passages contained in it.

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It pointed out that His Highness had faithfully lived up to the undertaking that he had given 25 years earlier. In consequence great progress had been made in Gondal.

(1) Security of life and property had increased 50 per cent.

(2) The wheels of law and justice ran smoothly and speedily in the law courts.

(3) The agriculturists had been given the right of ownership in their houses and of alienating their occupancy rights in land. Land revenue totalling Rs. 17,25,000 had been remitted.

The number of wells had been doubled. The Veri Irrigation and Water Works and the Paneli Irrigation Lake, costing Rs. 12,30,000 had protected Gondal subjects from famine and disease.

(4) Every facility had been given to develop trade. Among the taxes abolished were import and octroi duties

(5) One hundred miles of new, spacious roads had been added.

Railways had been considerably extended at a cost of Rs. 38,00,000.

Gondal and Dhoraji had been connected by telephone with most of the villages

Many buildings had been erected in the capital and principal towns. The various works of public utility had cost Rs 1,50,00,000.

(6) The number of schools had risen from 65 to 108; the number of boys attending them from 3,230 to 7,962, the number of girls from 217 to 783, teachers' salaries from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 75,000, and the average annual educational expenditure from the State Treasury from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 61,000. Facilities had been provided for secondary education

(7) The medical staff had been increased by 40 per cent, the number of patients treated by 50 per cent and the number of surgical operations by 50 per cent

(8) The people expressed their deep gratitude to the Tahkore Sahib for making them "contented and happy" They acknowledged that

(9) he had "ever made himself accessible to all classes" The "kindness, courtesy and patience which had invariably characterized his intercourse with them and the sympathy with their best interests so eminently displayed in his administration" had left a deep and lasting impression upon their hearts

They also took occasion to express their love and loyal devotion to Her Highness the Rani Sahiba She had "won a warm corner in their hearts by her sympathetic and kind nature, her piety, her efforts in the cause of women's education, her literary gifts and her philanthropy that refused to be deflected by distinctions of caste, creed or race They could not, they declared, "forget the deep interest and personal trouble she took in alleviating the sufferings of the famine stricken in the dire famine of 1900"

They also eulogized the Yuvaraja Shree Bhojrajee who had, they declared, "already won their affectionate regard by his simplicity, amiability and urbanity

The Address was presented in a silver casket of exquisite Cutch work Immediately afterwards another Address, also enclosed in a casket was presented by representatives of Gondals residing in Burma

The Tahkore Sahib sincerely appreciated the warmth of the tribute paid him by his "beloved people" and the hearty good wishes for continued health and prosperity extended to him He was, he said, "very deeply touched by the tone of sincere loyalty pervading it and by the good wishes and appreciative terms in which they had referred to Her Highness and the Her Apparent

No part of the Address had been more welcome to him than the one in which he had been told that his people were happy and contented. His "highest ambition had been to secure their contentment and happiness." Their assurance that he had succeeded in that effort would strengthen him in his further endeavours in those directions.

In his modesty he added that he could "see no end to the path of progress." The ideal appeared to him to be difficult of attainment. Still he intended to "follow the path keeping the ideal constantly in view. Appreciation of one's effort in that direction was no small encouragement in the march, but the rate of progress really depended on the amount of co-operation received from the people."

Like a father talking to his children, he exhorted the officials and the people to unite in preventing any disturbing element from obstructing peaceful progress. Smooth and harmonious action could, he warned them, "be secured only by co-ordination of different factors and by defining the sphere of each in such a way that one would not overlap or interfere with the other."

He had delimited the respective spheres of action of the State and the citizens. "The business of the State is to clear the ground by removing obstructions and to provide facilities," he told them. But "development of the various branches of art, industry and commerce as well as social reform must rest with the people."

His Highness gratefully alluded to the fact that in the Address that had been presented no mention had been made of any shortcomings. Perhaps, he remarked, they were among those gifted persons who realized "that criticism without knowledge of all the facts was not of much value." In making that statement he did not mean to suggest that his administration had been free from defects. No human in-

stitution could be perfect. He did mean however that every act of administration had behind it the desire to do good to the public. Considerations of a personal nature had not swayed him in formulating or executing any policy, during the quarter of a century of his stewardship.

He thanked the officials who had loyally co-operated driving the complex machinery of administration and solemnly affirmed that

“ the interests of my dear subjects are deeply embedded in my heart and the prosperity of Gondal and the happiness of my people have always been, and will ever remain, the paramount consideration to the end of my time ”

At the close of his reply, the visiting Rajas congratulated him in well-chosen phrases, and poet recited compositions in Sanskrit, Gujarati, Hindi and English. Mulgrasia Vakhai Sinhajee Gajubhai of Bhimora announced that in honour of the occasion he had remitted to his tenants one-fourth of the land assessment they owed him and expressed his readiness to lay down his life, if occasion arose, in the service of his overlord.

At night His Highness drove through the brilliantly illuminated streets. Everywhere enthusiastic crowds greeted him with loud cheers.

The Thakore Sahib of Limbdi, who had been unable to reach Gondal on the Jubilee day, arrived on the 26, along with the Yuvaraja and the chief officers of his State. He was accorded all the honours due to his rank and was escorted to the Guest House.

The night of the 26 was celebrated with a magnificent display of fireworks on the left bank of the Gondal, opposite the Grasia College. At the close of the pyrotechnics the Maharaja of Bhavnagar left Gondal by a special train.

A torch light procession half a mile long was formed at eleven o'clock by the Kumars of Grasia

College and the students of the Sagramjee High School, carrying torches and flags. It started from the Grasia College and escorted the Thakore Sahib's carriage, which also contained the other members of the Royal Family and the Thakore Sahib of Limbdi, to the "Huzur Bungalow." Marching to the strains of music, it was joined by thousands of persons who fell in step with it as it passed.

On its way through the brightly lit and densely thronged streets the carriage was stopped at almost every door while Bhagvat Sinhjee's "dear people" presented him with *attar* and *pan*, garlanded him and showered gold and silver flowers and coins on him. The garlands and bouquets were so heaped around him that he could hardly be seen. It took the procession five hours to cover less than a mile, and the palace was not reached until four o'clock the next morning.

A fair was held near His Highness' statue during the three days of the Jubilee celebrations. The town remained decorated and was illuminated each night. Everyday social functions of one kind or another—breakfast, garden, evening and supper parties—were organized.

The united Mahomedan Jamats of the State invited the Thakore Sahib, his family and friends to be their guests for the three days of the celebration. The invitation was accepted and the hospitality was lavish.

Bhagvat Sinhjee also received from his subjects and admirers many tokens of their esteem, mostly articles made of silver. So deeply touched was he by these demonstrations of loyalty and affection that he sent out the following message:

"The enthusiasm with which my beloved people and others have celebrated my Silver Jubilee throughout the State on the 24, 25, and 26 of October, 1909, and the spontaneous demonstrations of loyalty and attachment have produced a deep impression upon my mind. I earnestly

hope that the mutual feelings evinced during those days may continue for ever "

Telegram* and letters of congratulation were received by His Highness from numerous friends and well-wishers in various parts of India and abroad, including Sir George Clarke (afterwards the Lord Sydenham of Combe), then the Governor of Bombay and the Maharaja Gackwar of Baroda

The Silver Jubilee was specially marked by numerous donations to encourage education On October 24 the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, who had presided at a prize distribution at the Mongiba Girls' School, announced the foundation of an annual prize of Rs 30 to be awarded to the girl passing first in the highest class at the annual examination It was to take the form of a gold neck ornament with a locket bearing the effigy of his consort—Her Highness the Rani Sahiba Shree Nandkunverba

On the same occasion Mr Narsinhbhai Harjivan Dave distributed prizes worth Rs 100 and his son Prabhashankar deposited Rs 300, the interest from which was to be used for providing books and other materials to deserving girls

The Thakore Sahib of Limbi presided at the annual distribution of prizes to successful Kumars of the Grasia College held in the College Hall on August 26 Towards the close of the ceremony he announced the establishment of a scholarship of Rs 15 per month, to be called after his eldest son, the Yuvaraja Shree Digvijay Sinhjee, who had commenced his school career at the Grasia College It was to be given to the Grasia Kumar who, after finishing his course at that institution, took up agricultural studies He further promised to give Rs 1,000, the interest from which was to be utilized for awarding prizes annually to the students of the Grasia College on the 25 of August

At the end of a party given in Kailas Bagh on October 29 the united Hindu Mahajans of Gondal,

Dhoraji and Upleta announced through their host (Sheth Panachand Naranji of Gondal), that in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee an annual prize would be given from the interest of Rs 2,500, to a Hindu student of the State standing highest at any of the drawing examinations of the Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy School of Art Sheth Tribhovandas Dhanji of the Bhayavadar Ginning Factory endowed the Bhayavadar schools with Rs 500 for the purpose of founding prizes for the boy and girl standing first at the annual examinations of the Taluka School and the Girls' School respectively They were to be known as the "Shree Bhagvat Sinhjee Silver Jubilee Prizes"

The people had collected Rs 75,000 as a thanksgiving offering, to be spent as His Highness saw fit The idea was to erect a building that would take the form of a permanent memorial and Sir George Clarke was invited to lay the foundation-stone during his forthcoming tour of Kathiwar early in 1910

His Excellency arrived in Gondal on January 25 and was shown every place of interest When he reached the spot near the railway station where the Silver Jubilee Institute, as it was then named, was to be built, he found that a large *shamiana* had been pitched for the ceremony

Mr Bezongji explained that the memorial was meant as the people's tribute to the Thakore Sahib for the enlightened manner in which he had been carrying on the administration and the way in which he had "tried his best to promote the prosperity and social advancement of his subjects" All the beneficent measures introduced in his State during the last quarter of a century bore the stamp of his personality

His Excellency made many appreciative references to the Thakore Sahib in the address he delivered in laying the foundation stone One could not," he said, "drive through this beautiful city without feeling that a watchful eye had been upon its public institutions

for years and that, indeed, everything possible had been done to promote the health and prosperity of the people." In his estimation Bhagvat Sinhjee had shown "what could be done by an enlightened and able Chief when relieved from the great expense of having to defend himself"

Sir George Clarke felt that the Jubilee Institute would "do much to promote the welfare and enlightenment of the people of Gondal" He trusted that the Committee would not forget the technical and industrial aspect of the institution He believed "thoroughly in the value of technical education not merely in promoting industry but in its practical value in acting as a check to the speculative philosophy of which there is so much in India"

After long and anxious thought His Highness decided that the money collected by the people could best be spent upon building and equipping a modern workshop where many articles then being imported into the State could be manufactured, and that would create employment for his people and endow them with skill

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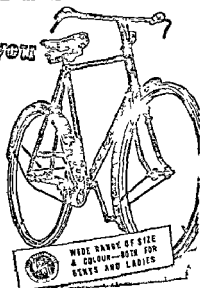
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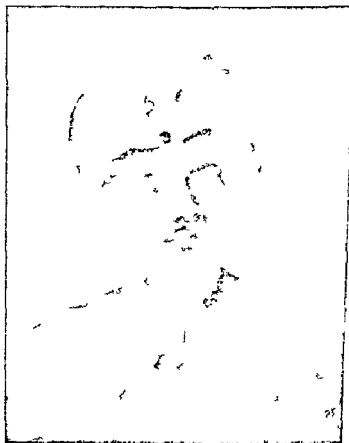


H. H. THE MAHARAJA SAHEB OF IDAR

IDAR is a first class State in the Rajputana States' Agency and is popularly called NANI MARWAR as since the 11th century three successive dynasties of its Rulers have come from Marwar in Rajputana.

The Ruling Family belongs to the same illustrious Rathor family as Jodhpur, (Forbes Ras Mala Vol. I,

p 290) The State seems to have been in a flourishing condition possessing large cities in old days, as is testified by the ruins of beautiful temples, reservoirs and large



THE MAHARAJ KUMAR SAHEB OF IDAR

WHO ALSO HOLDS DEWAN'S OFFICE

number of step wells all over the country. Historical evidence in the Puranas goes to say that the territory was the residence of two demons Vritra and Ilwa in Dwapar Yuga (Forbes Ras Mala p 291). As they destroyed the land very much the great Agastya Rishi killed them. According to Bhavishyottar Purana after 2232 years of Kali Yuga had passed the territory was for some time ruled by King Veni Vatsara (Forbes

Ras Mala, p 291) He is said to have been born on the Idar Hills, his mother, who was the Rani of the King of Shrinagar at present situated in the State of Tehri Garhwal in the Himalayan Mountains having been brought to Idar by a monster bird while she was in the family way Veni Vatsaraj was ultimately persuaded by his Nag (serpent) wife to leave the country and the Taran Mata cave in the Taranga Hills is still pointed out as a place where he entered the nether world (Forbes Ras Mala, p 291)

Long after this i.e., in the 6th century, Grahaditya, son of Shiladitya, acquired the territory of Idar from the Bhils after the sack of Vallabhipur by Arab invaders who killed Shiladitya and destroyed the city His descendants ruled for 200 years, but after that period Nagaditya, 8th in the line, was killed by Bhils in A D 716 (Forbes Ras Mala, p 292) Nagaditya's son Bapa Raval went to Marwar and his descendants still rule there (Forbes Ras Mala, p 292) After them came the Parihars from Marwar They ruled the territory for nearly 300 years The last Chief of Idar, Maharaja Amarsinghji, arrayed himself on the side of Prithviraj Chauhan, the Delhi King against Shah buddin Ghorī and died on the field with his brave Rajputs in 1193 A D (Forbes Ras Mala, p 292) The Raneczola Hill near Idar is still pointed out as the place where his Rani threw themselves from the precipice to save their honour (Forbes Ras Mala p 293) Hathisod, a Bhil servant of the deceased Chief ruled over the territory for some time but his successor Samalia sod having aspired for the hand of the daughter of his Nagar Minister, was killed by Rao Soningji a Rathod Prince of Marwar at the Minister's request for help Rao Soningji was a grandson of the mighty chief Raja Jeychand of Kanauj and younger brother of Rao Asthanji, the founder of Jodhpur House who had settled at Pali when consequent on sack of Kanauj and defeat and death of his grandfather at the hand of Shahbuddin Ghorī in 1193-94, his descendants migrated to Western Rajputana Rao Soningji thus came in possession of

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Idar in A D , 1246 and his descendants ruled over Idar for nearly 500 years (Forbes Ras Mala, p 294) These Rathod Raos were very brave and in their time the boundaries of the Idar State extended far beyond its present limits They have permanently left their stamp on the land by building reservoirs, tanks, temples a large number of step-wells

Rao Chandrasingh last in the line of Rao Soningji was a weak chief who was not able to control his Sardars and Ministers He left Idar in disgust and settled in the present State of Vijayanagar by treacherously killing the Thakore, his own father-in-law After a short period of mismanagement, Maharaj Anandsinghji of Jodhpur, took possession of their ancestral kingdom of Idar in A D 1731 (Forbes Ras Mala, p 427) The Idar State has thus continued to be in possession of the present Rathod House for the last 700 years, *i e* ever since 1246 A D During this period there have been several occasions on which the families of Jodhpur and Idar have supplied *inter se* successive rulers to both these States, thus maintaining the uninterrupted possession of these two principalities in the hands of the same dynasty, *i e* with the descendants of their ancestor Rao Jeychand of Kanauj Thus when Idar Gadi fell vacant after the migration of Rao Chandersingh to Polo, Maharaj Anandsinghji, a Cadet of the Rathod dynasty of Jodhpur took possession of Idar in the year 1731 A D , and later on in 1843 A D , when Maharaja Mansinghji of Jodhpur died without any issue, Maharaja Takhatsinghji, a younger scion of Idar, succeeded him to Jodhpur Gadi Still more recently when Maharaja Kesrasinghji's minor son and successor Maharaja Krishnasinghji died in infancy, Major General Sir Pratapsinghji, a younger brother of Maharaja Jaswantsinghji of Jodhpur came over and succeeded to the Idar Gadi in 1901 A D , A reference to the Geneological Table of the Rulers of the States of Jodhpur and Idar will thus illustrate the truth of Colonel Tod's statement that "the Heir-apparent of Idar is the Heir presumptive

of Jodhpur " (Tod's Rajasthan Para II, p 89, Annals of Marwar)

It will also be observed that Idar having been acquired in 1246 A D , by a scion of Jodhpur dynasty its first and oldest branch It will further be noticed from its previous history that the Idar State had been enjoying the status of a separate and independent kingdom under the Parihar Rajputs since 6th century A D before its acquisition by Rathod descendants of Raja Jeychand As such it can easily claim to be one of the very few ancient Indian States which can trace their history far back into the hoary antiquity and which having resisted successfully the onslaughts of time throughout these ages have maintained their existence and integrity upto the present day

This State came into contact with the British Government in 1811-12 A D , at the time of the settlement of the Mahi Kantha Agency According to the report dated 21st September 1821 of Major Miles the then Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, it was then, besides Khalsa Lands, *composed of the dependencies 'Comprising the Putas of the Bhayats or relations of the Raja his Puttavuts or Puttayuts, those of the former Raos of Idar the Koolie chieftainships in their neighbourhood and the district of Malpoor, Polo, Danta and Gudwarra'* Even so late as 1859 A D , according to Major Wallace's letter No 200 dated 12th April 1859 addressed by him to Bombay Government at the time of his handing over the charge of this State to the then Ruler on the termination of his minority, *"the Maharaja of Idar had the power of life and death throughout their territory and over all persons within it"* All these principalities continued to form part of the Idar State practically till 1877 A D , when some of them for Political reasons were detached from it during the minority of the succeeding Ruler and attached to the Melu Kantha Agency

The present Ruler, His Highness Maharaj Shree Himmat Singhji Sahib Bahadur, is the 10th Ruler of that House from Maharaja Anandsinghji He is the

grandson of that illustrious soldier, the late Maharaja General Sir Pratap Singhji Sahi and ascended the Gadi on the 14th April 1931 on the demise of his father Maharaja Sir Dowlat Singhji Sahib

PERSONAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE PRESENT RULER
AND HIS IMMEDIATE DESCENDANTS

His Highness Maharaja Shree Himmat Singhji Sahib Bahadur was born on 2nd September 1899 and as stated above ascended the Gadi on the 14th April 1931. His Highness was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer, from where he passed his Diploma Examination in the year 1916 and stood first among the successful candidates from all the Chief's Colleges in India, winning the Viceroy's Medal. He accompanied His late Highness Maharaja Sir Dowlat Singhji to Europe when the latter went to attend the Coronation of the King Emperor in London. His Highness also acted as a Page to His Imperial Majesty at the time of Delhi Darbar of 1911-12. He is a keen sportsman and racing is his hobby. His horse, 'Heritage II' won the then 'Blue Ribband of the Indian Turf', The Eclipse Stakes of India in 1937.

His Highness has two sons. The elder one Maharajakumar Shree Daljit Singhji who is the Heir apparent was born on 10.7.1917 and is at present 28 years of age. His Highness' younger son Maharaja Kumar Shree Amar Singhji was born on 4.10.1919. His Highness has also one grandson who was born on the 25th September 1938.

NOTE

1. The Maharaja Sahib is entitled to be received and visited by His Excellency the Viceroy
2. The State enjoys the plenary powers
3. The Capital of the State is Himatnagar

4. The Population of the State including attached Units is 3,54,311 according to the Census of 1941.

5. The area of the State including the attached units is 1905 sq. Miles.

6. The gross income of the State including alienated jagir is about Rs. 55,00,000.

7. Salute—15 Guns.

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LIMBDI

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The State has 51 villages under its full jurisdiction at present. It owes 34 Talukdari villages situated within the British Collectorate of Ahmedabad which constitute what is known as the Khadol Barwala Mahal. Besides these 40 villages of a part of the Wadhwan-Bhoika Thana and 2 villages of the Rai-Sankli Taluka have been attached to the Limbdi State during June 1943. The average annual income of the State calculated on the basis of the net income for the last five years is Rs. 7,00,000 inclusive of the income of its non-jurisdictional villages.

His Highness Maharana Shri Digvijayasinghji expired at the age of 44, on the 6th January, 1941, leaving a minor son of only one year of age. An administrator has been appointed for the conduct of the Administration of the State during the minority of the present Thakore Saheb Shri Chhatrasalji.

Reforms :—With a view to securing an increasing measure of association of the people with the administration, a wholly elected 'Shaher Sabha' has been instituted in the Town of Limbdi and Village Punchayats, also wholly elected, has been organised in the jurisdictional villages.

STATE OFFICIALS

Administrator : J. P. NICHOLSON, O.B.E.

High Court :—Chief Judge: J. P. NICHOLSON, O.B.E

JUDGE: RAJ KUMAR SHRI FATEHSINGHI, M.A., LL.B.
(Cantab), Bar-at-Law F.R.G.S.

Guardian to the Minor Thakore Saheb: RAJ KUMAR
SHRI GHANSHYAMSINGHI.

Special Officer:—RAO SAHEB V. S. TRIVEDI, A.A.,

Chief Medical Officer:—DR. A. D. POPAT, F.R.C.S.
(Edin.)

Accountant General:—VINAYAKRAO L. CHANDORIKER,
B.A.

Revenue Commissioner:—Balubha J. Jhala, B.A.

Munsiff and First Class Magistrate:—Amritlal C.
Mehta, B.A., LL.B.

Superintendent of Police:—PRABHATSINGHI V. JHALA.

Headmaster:—LABHSHANKER V. BHATT, B.A.

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LUNAWADA

LIEUT. H. H. Naharana Shri Virbhadrasinhji Rajaji Saheb of Lunawada.

His Highness belongs to the illustrious clan of Solanki Rajputs and is a descendant of Sidhraj Jaysinh Deo of Anhilwad Patan once the Emperor of Gujarat, Cutch and Kathiawar.

Born:—1910. Ascended the Gadi : 1930. .

Educated:—At Mayo College, Ajmer. Underwent Military Training at Dehra Dun and joined the Welch Regiment some three years ago for acquiring practical training in modern warfare.

Married:—In 1931, Maharani Saheb Shri Munherkunverba, daughter of Capt. His Highness Maharana Raj Saheb Shri Sir Amarsinhji, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., of Wankaner State.

War Efforts:—The State contributes 5 per cent of the gross revenues to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund from the beginning of the War. Cash contributions to this and other War Funds amount to Rs. 1,85,674-6-2. Investments in Defence Bonds and other war securities aggregate to Rs. 2,45,700. The State has supplied recruits for M. T. section and Infantry. The Maharana Saheb also offered his personal services at the front. The Ladies' Work Party started by Shri Maharani Saheba is doing very useful work and has sent articles worth Rs. 472-12-0, the entire cost of which has been met by His Highness from her privy purse. National War Front work is also being vigorously carried on. The Maharana Saheb is an Hon. Colonel of Ranjit Infantry. A War Board constituted at the commencement of hostilities is doing useful work, by disseminating correct war information



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and counteracting rumours. A corps of Civic Guards has been raised and they are instructed in A.R.P., First Aid and Physical Training.

No fees are levied in any of the Educational Institutions, either primary or secondary. Medical aid throughout the State is also given entirely free of charge. The State has rich forests and is considered a paradise for shikaris. The town of Lunawada, the Capital, is a railway station at a distance of 25 miles from Godhra on the B. B. & C. I. Railway (Bombay-Delhi.) Route). The State abounds in very beautiful and charming natural sceneries. There is a pucca metalled road between Lunawada and Godhra and good roads exists between Lunawada and other important places.

STATE COUNCIL

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Dewan & Foreign & Political Member: A. P. SHAH, B.A., (HONS.) ADVOCATE.

Wazir and Home Member: MAHARAJ PRAVINSINHJI.

Popular Member: RAO SAHEB O. G. PARIKH.

Chief Secretary: N. K. KANABAR.

JUDICIARY

High Court Judge: N. N. PATWARI, B.A., LL.B., SOLICITOR.

District & Session Judge: V. A. Mehta, B.A., LL.B.

Nyayadhish & F. C. Magistrate: G. H. ANANDJIWALA, B.A., LL.B.

Other Principal Officers of the State.

Naib Diwan: MAHARAJ VIRVAKRAMSINHJI.

Private Secretary: SIDUBHAI KALUBHAI.

P. W. D. Officer: MUSAHEB CHATURSINHJI.

Police Superintendent : S. M. PANDYA.

Chief Medical Officer : DR. N. D. SHAH, M.B.B.S.

MANGROL

Mangrol: SHAIKH MOHAMED NASIR-UD-DINMIAN SAHEB, SHAIKH SAHEB OF MANGROL.

Born: 9th August 1916.

Accession: 25th August 1943.

Heir-Apparent: SAHEBZADA SHAIKH ABDUL KHALIQ

II. THE SHAIKH SAHEB has also two Sahebzadis.

Area: 144 Square miles including 67 miles non-jurisdictional territory.

Population: 45,274.

Revenue: Rs. 8 lacs.

1. The State of Mangrol lies between Junagadh territory on the north and east, with a portion bordering on Porbandar. On the south and west it is bounded by the Arabian Sea. Mangrol, the capital, has a

Port, one and a half miles to the west of the actual town. It is itself a fortified citadel of great antiquity and lies on the sea coast practically equidistant from Bombay on the south and Karachi on the North. Its originals are buried in the past. There is some evidence of its existence in very ancient writings. In the temple of Madhavrajji, founded in B. C. 1400 at Madhavpur, according to the Mahabharata, there is an inscription



H. H. THE SHAIKH SAHEB
OF MANGROL

to the effect that Kurpal of the old Kashyapur family established Mangrol. Beyond suggesting, however, a close connection between Mangrol and Madhavpur

this might not, in itself, be regarded as sufficient evidence. But the Greek traveller Ptolemy visited this part of India in B. C. 276; he makes mention of Moglossum Emporium. It is not unreasonable to associate this with the present Mangrol, for there is historic reason to believe that the ancient name of the City was Mun-glapur. The Musalman conquerors later changed the name to Manglure or Mangalore, from which the present name is an easy transition.

2. The earliest written records of Mangrol indicate that at the beginning of twelfth century—*circa* 1146 A.D., it came under the rule of a certain chief of the Gohil Rajput Clan named Sahar, who apparently held extensive sway throughout Kathiawar. An inscription in the temple Kamnath Mahadev, near Mangrol, shows that a century later, a Gohil Chief, one Ranik, still ruled over the territory; and at the beginning of the fourteenth century Bhan Jethva, who ultimately became chief of Porbandar in 1307, ruled over the City.

3. Meanwhile the Musalman invasion had already been begun, and Mangrol had not been missed. It was conquered by Mahmood Gaznavi on his way to Somnath in 1024, but in return for an annual tribute, the chiefs of Mangrol were allowed to retain their possession. This process was repeated in 1298 by Altaf Khan, General and Viceroy of Sultan Allauddin Khilji, who ruled at Somnath Pattan. Finally in 1360 during the reign of Sultan Feroz Tuglak, the Musalman again descended on Mangrol. The conqueror Izuddin bin Aram Shah was accompanied by the famous saint, Saint Sikander, whose shrine is still a cherished monument in Mangrol. This time the conquerors did not withdraw, and an ancestor of the Shaikhs of Mangrol, a certain Shaikh Jalauddin, was appointed Kazi. From *that* time, barring a brief period when the Marathas through political necessities were permitted to occupy Mangrol, the Musalmans have held Sway in that territory. True, the local chief was still, for a time,

permitted to exercise a semblance of power. But in 1398, trouble arose and the last Gohil chief was defeated and slain in battle by Jaffar Khan, the Viceroy of Gujarat. At that time, Shaikh bin Taj was appointed Governor of Mangrol.

4 Kathiawar's history was still somewhat chequered for another three hundred and fifty years. In 1591, old and new Sorath, incited by Sultan Muzaffar, rebelled against Akbar the Moghul Emperor. But the dissidents, including, Mangrol, were brought back to the imperial allegiance in the following years, and were placed under the direct charge of imperial Foudar, but following the death of Aurangzeb, and with the decline of the Moghul Empire, Mangrol appears to have become independent. By 1727 it was under the Sway of an oligarchy, led by Shaikh Fakruddin and Malik Shahabuddin. There were signs that the Moghuls were not inclined to take this defection lying down, and after ten years of power, the oligarchy, fearful of the Imperial wrath, voluntarily admitted the restless Marathas to Mangrol. For twelve years this fierce people stayed in Mangrol till their intolerance and rapacity aroused the Mosalmans of Mangrol to a successful rebellion under Shaikhman, the eighth direct ancestor of the present Shaikh Saheb. With the expulsion of the Marathas the Musalmans established their leader as the first Shukh of Mangrol in 1748.

5 Shaikh Mian subdued the Sayeds and established their rule over a wide area, levying tribute from Keshod, Chorwad to Kodinar and Pattan and capturing the Verawal Fort and the Navi Fort, the latter under Porbandar. The Muslim power in Mangrol took its birth in 1376 A.D., when a family of Bukhara Sayeds subverted the government of a Vaghela Chief and established their hold over the territory while in Junagadh and its branches in other parts of Kathiawar, Muslim power had its origin in 1478 A.D. The Mangrol ruling family traces its descent from the Khalifa Abubakar. They shared the rule of Mangrol

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in the fourteenth century with the Sayeds who accompanied the first Muslim conquerors of the country in 1398 A D

6 Shaikh Mohamed Nasiruddinman Saheb, the Ruler of the full jurisdictional Administration of Mangrol under the Junagadh State, came to the Gadi on the 25th of August 1943. He was born on the 9th August 1916. He is 29 years old. He is an Arab by extraction and is a Siddiqui Shaikh being descended from the first Caliph. The family claimed their advent in Sind with the earliest Arab invasion and in course of time penetrated into Kathiawar as soldiers of fortune, in one of Mahmud Ghazni's incursions.

7 The Shaikh Saheb was educated at home under special tutors, he joined the Rajkumar College at Rajkot in 1930 and studied there till 1934. He then went to Dehra Dun and joined Col Brown's Cambridge School to prepare himself for the senior Cambridge Examination. He remained at Dehra Dun from 1934 to 1936. In 1937 he proceeded to England where he was under the guardianship of the well-known cricketer and *litterateur*, Mr R J O Meyer, who is also a Cambridge man for about 2 years and passed his School Certificate with credit. He was then accepted by the Cambridge University in 1938 and he got first class in his first year of the tripos.

Political Agency — Sorath Prant, General Political Subordination of Junagadh

Boundaries Mangrol is bounded on the North and East by Junagadh State territory, a portion of the former side also being bounded by the territory of the Porbandar State. On the South and West it coterminates with the Arabian Sea coasts. The outlying Bhaderkantha Mahal is situated at a distance approximately of 34 miles from the capital on the Bhader river contiguous to the Kutiyana Mahal of Junagadh State and Navi Bandar Mahal of the Porbandar State.

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Nearest Port The Port which also bears the name of the Capital is about a mile and a half from Mangrol. It is served by two Steamship services run respectively by the British India Steam Navigation and the Bombay Steam Navigation Companies. The services remain closed during the rainy season owing to rough condition of the sea. These services had been suspended owing to the war, but recently have been continued as the war is over in favour of His Majesty's Government and their great allies.

Means of Access There is regular Motor Service between Keshod and Mangrol for passengers. Country carts are available for goods traffic.

Area The area of the State is 144 square miles, 77 being of Jurisdictional and 67 of non-jurisdictional villages.

8 Mangrol, the capital of the State is an old fortified town a mile and a half from the Port, greatly improved by a Hindu King of the Vaghela Dynasty that flourished in the 14th century A D. Its beauty has been greatly increased by magnificent state buildings and private owned houses. Its geographical position makes it a temperate and pleasant region through all the seasons.

9 In Mangrol, there are many objects of interests. The following are the chief centres of attraction both for Hindus and Mussalmans—(1) The ancient Juma Masjid, (2) The Raoli Masjid, (3) The ancient Mausoleum of Makhdum Sikandar, (4) The Mausoleum of Sayed Yasin Sawar, (5) Aman Mashayakh in Mangrol proper, (6) The temple of Kamnath at Dhelana, (7) Amreshwar at Rahij, (8) Gaureshwar at Gorej, (9) Swaminarayan at Locj, (10) Miranshah and (11) The Darbargadh.

Mangrol's War contribution so far is as follows —
Rs 53,000/- Towards the Viceroy's War Purposes
Fund.

Rs 2,000/- Rajkot Aeroplane Fund

Rs 1,000/- Lord Mever's Fund for Air Raid Victims
in London

Rs 1,000/- For Evacuee Children

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Adviser to Mangrol State S ALTAF HUSAIN

Acting Chief Karkhari SH ABDUL WADIR, B.A.

Political Officer DHARMA-SUKHARAJ J VASAVADA
B.A., LL.B

Huzur Assistant SHAIKH MOHAMMED HUSAIN

Huzur Court Judge D N VAKIL, B.A., LL.B
ADVOCATE

Sarnayadhish Bhayati and Rajpratham Judge DHARMA-
SUKHARAJ J VASAVADA, B.A., LL.B

Private Secretary KHAN BAHADUR KIFAYATUL-
LAHHAN

Revenue Commissioner ABDURREHMAN KHILSTAR

Port and Customs Officer SH ABDUL QADIR, B.A

Chief Medical Officer DR G G GATHA, L.M. & S

Nyayadhish & Magistrate CHIMANLAL K. MANKAD
B.A., LL.B

Educational Inspector KHWAJA SAEED AHMED,
B.A., B.T

P.H.D Officer SHAIKH AMIRUDDIN

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer M S SAYEED,
M.E.E

Treasury & Account Officer H R PIRANI

MANAVADAR

KHAN SAHEB GULAM MOINUDIN KHAN, Ruler of Manavadar State and Bantwa is a decendent of the illustrious Babi (Usman Zai Pathan) family, who, since the reign of Humayun has always been prominent in the annals of Gujarat

Born On the 22nd December 1911 *Invested* with full ruling power on the 21st November 1931

Educated At Rajkumar College, Rajkot

Married In October 1933 Nawab Begum Qudsia Siddiqa Begum, sister of the present Sheikh Saheb of Mangrol

The Khan Saheb is an all round sportsman and specialises in Hockey and Cricket. He represented India at the Western Asiatic Games held in New Delhi in 1934 and was selected captain of the Western India States Cricket Association's Team for the Inter-Provincial Trials in 1935

Fatima Siddiqa Begum Saheba, revered mother of the Khan Saheb was the first lady in Kathiawar to take the reigns of the State during the minority of the Khan Saheb from 1918 to 1931. She was awarded the "Kaiser-i-Hind" Gold Medal by Government for her administrative genius which was amply demonstrated during her Regency

Lt Nawabzada Abdul Hamid Khan of the 10/6th Rajputana Rifles is the only brother of the Khan Saheb. Born 10th April 1914. Appointed Nazim-e-Riyasat on 15th October 1942

Heir-Apparent Nawabzada Mohamed Aslam Khan born on the 15th March 1935. Second son Nawabzada Mahomed Fatehuddin Khan born on 16th June 1941.

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Area of the State: 107 sq. miles. *Population:* 32,000.

Revenue: Rs. 7. 5 lakhs.

STATE OFFICERS

Dewan: NARENDARRAI D. BUCH, Bar-at-law.

High Court Judge: D. N. VAKIL, B.A., LL.B.,
ADVOCATE.

Revenue Member: M. Jamiluddin Ghausi, M.A.,
LL.B.

Sar Nyayadhish: B. N. MEHTA, B.A., LL.B.

Private Secretary: AHMEDJAN KHAN A. KHAN.

Chief Medical Officer: DR. A. D. JOSEPH, M.B.B.S

Police Superintendent: KHAN BAHADUR N. BABI.

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MORVI

HIS Highness Maharaja Shree Lukhdhirji Bahadur
G B E, K C S I, L L D, Maharaja of Morvi.

Born 1876

Ascended Gadi 1922

Educated Privately in India and England

Heir Yuvraj Shree Mahendrasinhji

Second son Maharaj Kumar Shree Kalikakumar.

Area of State About, 1,072 square miles in Kathiawar Morvi State has a district in Cutch also with an area of about 50 sq miles

Population 141,817 in 1941 (Increase during 1931-1941, 25 per cent)

Average annual Gross Revenue 60,00,000

Salute 11 guns

Chief Port in the State Navlakhi Regular periodical service of ocean-going steamers from Great Britain and America as well as Indian ports A regular ferry service is daily running between Navlakhi and Kandia, Cutch

Morvi Railway, owned entirely by the State, 133 miles

Morvi Tramway, owned entirely by the State, 63 miles

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Free Primary and secondary education is available throughout the State

The Morvi Technical Institute was opened in July 1940

STATE COUNCIL

President YUVRAJ SHREE MAHENDRASINHJI

Ag Vice President and Dewan MR M P BAXI,
B A, LL, B

Ag 1st Member RAO SAHEB C R MANKAD

2nd Member DOLARRAI M BUCH, B A, LL B

Heir-Apparent MAHARAJ KUMAR SHREE MAHENDRASINHJI, Heir apparet Morvi State

Born 1st January 1918 Educated at home under highly qualified English and Indian tutors, at Rajkumar College, Rajkot at Bradfield College, England and at St Mary's School Bombay

Travelled in Europe with experienced Guardians In 1938 he was associated with Members of the State Council for training in State administration Having become acquainted with the working of the administration was appointed Joint President, State Council, in 1939, and President State Council in October 1940

On the declaration of the War H H the Maharaja of Morvi placed the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King Emperor Since then the following contributions have been made for various War purposes

Rs 5,00,000 to H E the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund

Rs 1,35,000 for the purchase of two Spitfire Fighters

Rs 15,000 to the Indian Red Cross and the St John Ambulance Association

Rs 10,000 to St Dunstan's Fund

Rs 10,000 to the Western India States War Plane Fund contributed by the people of the State

Rs 5,000 to King George's Fund of Sailors

Rs 2,000 to the Hellenic War Fund

Rs 1,500 to the Silver Trinket Fund by His Highness' family and the people of Morvi

Rs 6,660 to various other war funds

Rs 10,000 to H E the Viceroy's Fund for providing comforts and amenities to Indian Troops

Rs 5,000 to the Western India States War Gifts Fund

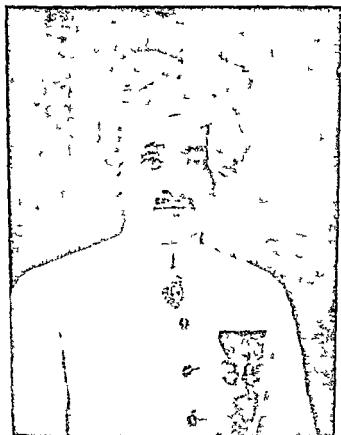
Rs 25,000 to H E the Viceroy's Red Cross Prize Fund Appeal

Rs 1,000 towards the Greek Relief Fund

In addition large office accommodation in a building owned by the State in Bombay has been placed at the disposal of the Government free of any rent. Besides this brand new rails with fishplates covering a length of 30 miles, 20 covered and 31 open Meter-Gauge Railway waggons for despatch overseas, one meter gauge P class Locomotive, one steam tug "Jumna" now renamed by Government "Morvi" have been despatched. His Highness' Bombay House "Mohim Mahal" with furniture has been rent free. Further His Highness has promised a yearly contribution of Rs 1,440 towards the 'adoption' of two Polish children till the war lasts.

PORBANDAR

THE Ruling Family of Porbandar belongs to the Rajput Clan of Jethwas claiming their descent from Hanuman, the staunch devotee of the great King Rama. The Jethwas are one of the most



H. H. THE MAHARANA SAHEB OF PORBANDAR

ancient of all the ruling races in the peninsula. In 1785 A.D. Raja Shri Sartanji established his seat of rule at Porbandar which has ever since been the capital of the Jethwa Rulers.

Koonvar Shri Haloji came into contact with the Resident of the Hon'ble East India Company about 1807. In virtue of an Agreement made in 1809 A.D. and a later decision embodied in His Majesty's Secretary of State's Despatch



of 1853 A.D., by which Porbandar is guaranteed perpetual protection the State is making a special annual payment of Rs 15,000 to the British Government.

Major His Highness Maharaja Maharana Shri Sir Natwarsinhji Bhavsinhji K C S.I. the present Ruler claims to be the 180th Ruler of the only Jethwa House in India among the illustrious Rulers whereof may be mentioned the name of Nagarjun who held sway in

THE UVARAJ SAHEB OF PORBANDAR

Western Kathiawar as many as two thousand years ago. His Highness succeeded to the *gaddi* on the 10th December 1908 when he was a minor, having been born on the 30th June 1901. Educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, where he distinguished himself as a first class scholar and sportsman and crowned his career by standing first at the Diploma Examination of All Chiefs Colleges in 1918, the Maharaja ascended the *gaddi* with full ruling powers on the 26th January 1920. His Highness visited England and the continent in 1921 and on several occasions since. In 1932 His Highness led the All India Team which made its debut in international cricket. On each occasion His Highness had the audience of His Majesty the King Emperor. His Highness was the second Indian Ruler to have had the privilege of paying an official visit to

His late Holiness Benedict XV at the Vatican His Highness ranks fourth among the Ruling Princes of Kathiawar His Highness was created K C S I in 1929

His Highness adopted on the 12th June 1941 as Yuvraj and heir-apparent Maharaj Kumar Shri Udaybhan from Jethwa Shri Shirsinhji of Shrinagar, nearest Bhayat of the State Maharaj Kumar Shri Udaybhan was born on the 6th October 1910 He is a graduate of agriculture He married on the 3rd July 1941 Raj Kunvari Shri Premkunvarba, sister of Thakore Saheb Shri Chhatrasalasinhji of Limbdi

Lord Irwin, Lord Willingdon and Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy and Governor-Generals visited Porbandar in 1927, 1936 and 1941

During the 1914-18 Great War, besides contributions to various funds, Rs 100,000 were subscribed on behalf of the minor Maharaja Saheb towards the expenses and Rs 500,000 were subscribed by the State to the War Loans which amount was exclusive of the subscriptions made by the subjects and the officers of the State In recognition of the services rendered in connection with the War, the title of Maharaja was recognised as a *hereditary distinction and the Salute of the Ruler was permanently raised to 13 guns on the 1st January 1918*

Soon after the outbreak of the War in 1939 the State sent a donation of Rs 100,000 to H E the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and gave a donation of Rs 100,000 every year till the end of the war His Highness gave donations of varying amounts totalling Rs 620,000 to the following Funds, viz, H E the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, St Dunstan's Section for Blinded Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Empire, Lady Linlithgow's Silver Trinket Fund, King George's Fund for Sailors, Indian Red Cross and St John Ambulance Association (Indian Council) Fund, London Air Raid Relief Fund, Indian Comforts Fund for the

comforts of Indian Troops in the Middle East, R A F. Benevolent Fund, Polish Children Fund, etc Supply of men and materials, the best A R P Organisation, a National War Front, War Watching and Civil Defence Organisation, contributions to the various Funds both by the State and people, industrial enterprise, both established and new, all contribute splendidly to the War Effort

The Bhadar weir constructed in the famine of 1900 at a cost of Rs 3,14,000 is an outstanding work of agricultural importance in the State which is implemented by a programme of irrigation and reclamation works of extensive utility Well sinking has gone on apace and is being liberally encouraged as one of the easy means to combat the vagaries of monsoon Porbandar ghee (clarified butter) is as famous as it is ancient and from 1937 it is being refined, graded and packed with special quality AGMARK seals at the Chemical Laboratory which is recognised as a ghee grading station

Porbandar is noted for its rich varieties of industries among the principal of which may be mentioned—Cement Works, the first works of their kind in India, Spinning and Weaving Mills, Salt Works, Match Works, Hosiery Works, Gold and Silver Works, Flooring Tiles Works and Shipbuilding During the last decade industrial development in the State has been more rapid than ever before Porbandar is by far the most ancient and exclusively maritime State of Western India It is an open roadstead situated on the direct trade route of Ocean going steamers Favourably geographically situated, it was the only port in Kathiawar chosen since as far back as 1914 by the B I S N Co., for their inward and outward Africa Service The State has an extended sea coast of about 62 miles The Imperial Bank of India is maintaining a Branch at Porbandar from 1928

Raj Mantris and Raj Subhechhiks constitute two orders of advisers on matters relating to civic and rural questions of public welfare The Village Panchayat

Act ensures simple, speedy and inexpensive justice, and Village Panchayats spread over the State are functioning satisfactorily.

The Constitution (Administrative and Legislative) of the Porbandar State Act, 1944, was promulgated on the 9th June 1944 and it was inaugurated on the 27th September 1944.

The Executive consists of the Chief Minister and two Ministers, one being designated as "Revenue and Finance Minister" and the other as "Home Minister." The appointment of Chief Minister rests with the Ruler. The appointment of the two Ministers also rests with the Ruler, selection being made from a panel of four nominees of the confidence of the Legislature at least two of whom must be members of the Legislature itself and the remaining a non official or-and an official of Public Utility Department being nominated from outside the Legislature. The two Ministers are allotted a series of Administrative Portfolios viz. Medical, Educational, Revenue, Accounts and Finance, Public Works, Electricity, Telephone, Port and Customs, Commercial and Industrial Developments, Police, Jail, Municipalities, Railway, Stone Quarries, and Judicial (routine). The two Ministers are responsible to the Legislature.

The Legislature known as Shri Hazur Raj Sabha is comprised of 30 to 32 members, of whom only 6 would be the Ruler's nominees. 24 members are returnable one each from 11 Social Units, 10 Occupational, Economic or other Units viz., Artisans, Industries, Trade, Sailors, Cattle Owners, Weavers, Municipalities, Bhayats, Mher alieneess, other Alienees, and 3 Agriculturists—one from each of the three Districts. All the 24 elected representatives of the Units aforesaid, are to be Headmen, Presidents or Chief men of their respective Units, being State subjects of some established status, of not less than 33 years of age, and duly elected by open voting at the meetings of Headmen of all the families or constituents of the respective Units.

The Legislature is competent to pass, for the Ruler's assent, Enactments in respect of all matters falling under the portfolios of the two Ministers, make Interpellations, move Resolutions, and regulate Financial Administration. Still another special feature of the Legislature is noticeable in the formation from itself of Boards of Arbitrators to dispose of minor disputes of civil and criminal nature.

Part X (Judicial) of the Constitution Act, was brought into operation on the 9th June 1944. The Judiciary is independent of the Executive.

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PALITANA

A Short Account of Palitana States Twenty-Five years' Progress

SOME time ago Palitana celebrated the Silver Jubilee of His Highness the Thakore Saheb Shree Sir Bahadursinhji Bahadur, KCSI, KCIE of



H H THE THAKORE SAHEB OF PALITANA

Palitana In spite of the present war conditions the people of Palitana were very keen to take the opportunity to express their feelings of gratitude towards their

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Ruler whose benevolent rule for twenty-five years had resulted in all round progress and happiness of his people His Highness before sanctioning celebrations laid down three conditions, namely, all the contributions should be absolutely voluntary, the amount collected should be used for useful public purposes, and there should be no unnecessary show or waste Though the people had to keep in mind these conditions, they did their best to make the function most successful and in fact made it a great success and the occasion became memorable in the annals of Palitana history A galaxy of Ruling Princes and their Heir Apparents graced the occasion by their presence and eminent men like Kavi Nanalal Dalpatram, the foremost living Poet of Gujarati Literature, Rao Bahadur Hiralal Kaji, the Retired Principal of Gujarat College, Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the well-known Business Magnate, Sjt Vyaya Bhatt of Prakash Pictures and many others specially came down to attend the function

Celebrations started with performance of Maha Rudra, Guests began to arrive and by the evening of 16-2-45 all camps were full The morning of 17-2-45 saw Palitana 'en fete' and much changed At the specially erected artistic big Pandal on the cricket ground, addresses by the Bhayats, the public, the Kheduts and Sheth Anandji Kalyanji, the Representative Body of All India Jain Community, were presented to His Highness before a gathering that seemed an overflow of humanity, amidst enthusiasm beyond description The speeches made and the addresses presented were a record of grateful people's feelings and the great progress made by Palitana under the careful guidance of His Highness for all these twenty-five years of his rule Kavi Shree Nanalal, though not well, spoke in his inspiring style and blessed His Highness who was once his pupil at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot

His Highness made a comprehensive and sincerely worded reply which touched the heart of his hearers First of all he thanked God Almighty Whose grace

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had enabled him to serve his State and people for such a long time. He then cordially welcomed all the guests for the special trouble they had all taken and openly acknowledging the unflinching loyalty, love, help and trust of his people said, "I frankly own, without it, as the head of our happy family, I could not have done anything." He further acknowledged the debts he owed to others for the training, education and help that were responsible for his success as a Ruler. He said, "I must frankly admit that if I have been at all a success, it is solely due to the fostering care of our dear Owen Saheb and Mem Saheb on whom I look upon as my 'Guru' and I can never repay them my debt of gratitude as long as I live, and to the education I received at one of the famous old Public Schools in England where I was taught to play the game, and to the unstinted help, advice and support I have always received from Brother Princes and Political Officers. I was fortunate to have at the commencement of my rule experienced, honest and faithful officers like Chimanlal Girdharlal Mehta and Rao Saheb Narandas Kalidas Gami." It is said 'kings are never grateful.' His Highness' frank words refute the truth of that saying. With equal frankness he addressed his Bhayats, Kheduts and general public and spoke about his duties. His motto is to serve his people. He said in his speech "I am delighted to say how happy and proud I am of my relation with my brothers of the same blood. It naturally always pains me a lot when I hear any ill said of any one.

"I look upon my Kheduts as the Pillars and the Back-bone of the State. In you always rests the prosperity of us all. . ."

"The general public may rest assured my doors are open night and day as I consider myself the first servant of the State and it is my Sacred duty to do all service I can." Proceeding further he said, "A Ruler's duty, as you all know, is never a bed of roses, but one thing I can assure you, my dear subjects, is that I have always tried my utmost, as is humanly possible in me,

to treat all equally, without any fear and favour, and I have looked upon religions of all caste and creed as my own. No human being is faultless, little less a ruler; so if anyone feels grieved that he has ever been unjustly wronged, I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my sincere regret." This human element in His Highness endears him to his people who thought their celebrations were justified in as much as they could know their Ruler better and could also judge how far they had advanced during his rule.

A ruler who lives long enough to be on the throne for twenty-five years generally sees the celebrations of a Silver-Jubilee. But whether celebration is a mere formal function or has a deeper meaning is always a question and a reply has to be sought in a detached review of what has been done and achieved during the period. It will therefore be in fitness of things to attempt a brief review of His Highness' rule.

His Highness was invested with full powers in 1919 at the age of 19. Before he came to power his time was well spent in receiving education at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and then at the famous old Public School Shrewsbury in England. The upbringing and training he received at the hands of Mr. & Mrs. Tudor Owen helped him a lot, and when he assumed the reins of administration of Palitana State he was well equipped for the very responsible task, and what followed is nothing but a record of steady and sober progress of real value.

The apparent happy change Palitana has undergone speaks for itself. Palitana has seen better roads, better sanitation and greater facilities of day to day utility. The following figures show the amount spent on important original public works:—

Schools	..	..	.. Rs.	1,66,597
Bridges, Roads	..	..	.. "	2,17,055
Water Works	..	..	.. "	1,77,952

Electric Works	.. ..	4,32,230
Vegetable Market	.. ..	46,021
Darbar Bank	.. ..	66,582
Public Library	. ..	14,751
Famine Works	. ..	31,160
River Bandhs	. ..	57,987
Telephone (60 miles)	..	23,556
General Total	Rs	12,33,900

and if we add a sum of Rs 6,00,000 (six lacs) spent after repairs, the final total comes to 18,39,000. Considering the average income of the State which is hardly 9,00,000 (nine lacs) annually, the p.c. spent after public works is in no way small and this fact easily entitles His Highness to be called "The Maker of Modern Palitana."

But one who thinks can know that mere buildings and constructions will not suffice. To educate the public mind and prepare it for better life and cultured mode of living is more essential. To this end proper education of the rising generation both boys and girls is absolutely necessary. Among the functions of this occasion that followed the presentation of addresses were the Prize Distribution Gathering and laying of the Foundation-stone for the new High School Building. His Highness Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawalnagar before giving away the prizes and His Highness Maharaja Saheb of Morvi after laying the Foundation-stone expressed in their speeches how impressed they were by the performances of boys and girls and what a great stride had been taken by the Education Department in Palitana. However, let the facts and figures speak for themselves.

The primary education has been free from the very beginning, Secondary education *i.e.*, High School education is also made free since 1936 on the auspicious occasion of the birth of Yuvraj Saheb Shree Shivendra-

sinhji In 1910 when His Highness assumed power, the number of primary schools was 21, to day it is 38, the number of school going children was 2,280, it is 3,885 now, the students studying at the High School numbered 261, today the number has gone up to 604, the number of girl students was 350 in 1919, it is 558 now. There was no girl student receiving High School education, to day about 1 dozen girls have joined the High School, the amount spent for Scholarships was Rs 1,700, now Rs 7,200 are spent for the purpose, the total expenditure of the Department was Rs 28,000 in 1919, it has now reached the sum of Rs 62,000. Apart from expenditure and increase in number of schools, the results have been also encouraging. The average results of successful candidates at the University Matriculation Examination have been 60% and many have gone for higher and foreign education. Palitana claims 2 Barristers (England) 2 F R C S, (England), 1 Ph D (America), 1 M A T D (England), 1 B A B E, (England), 1 B Sc Engineering (London) and many graduates and double graduates.

The other important aspect of education that the public is entitled to expect in these days of Democracy is also provided for. His Highness has a foresight. In 1930 a Praya Pratinidhi Sabha i.e., the people's Representative Assembly, briefly called the Popular Assembly was established and is regularly working since then holding sessions at intervals of three months. It consists of forty members out of which twenty are duly elected

and ten from the population the population was 62,000 in 1931 and 76,000 in 1941, the Assembly is quite representative and gives a good platform to discuss all questions of public interest. People are encouraged to take a lively interest in the administration. The Assembly has seen four elections and this Assembly is perhaps the only Assembly that has been working for such a long time on the election basis in Kathiawar.

The other features of advancement are also worth noting. Palitana enjoys full Jurisdictional powers. Judiciary is separated from the Executive and the Courts that are invested with full respective powers work independently. All substantial Acts of British India have been adopted here and often reputed counsels and lawyers appear in Palitana Courts. As regards Protection, the Palitana Police force which consisted of 245 men in 1919 has gone up to 350 now, and expenditure of the department from Rs 36,000 has gone up to Rs 77,000. Palitana Police force was responsible in recent times for bringing to book the gangs of Dacoits like Hayatkhan, Habib and others.

Kheduts of Palitana have an advantage which is not available elsewhere. Palitana has a peculiar system of assessment of Revenue. Revenue is fixed for each holding or occupancy. This fixed maximum sum is liable to vary according to crops raised in each year. In consultation with Kheduts themselves, a portion is deducted if the year is lean and the sum is written off for good. And this way during twenty-five years of His Highness' rule some 25 lacs of revenue is let off by way of remission i.e., average one lac of rupees of revenue is given up per year and is never to be recovered. This system keeps the peasantry on its feet. It feels relieved from the burden of arrears. Farmers are also given 'Takavi' i.e., loans for their agricultural purposes and given a due protection by the system of executing decrees against them through Revenue Authorities. His Highness regards them as the Back-bone of the State and is always on his lookout for their welfare. The Agricultural Department is specially entrusted for their improvement.

Palitana has been fortunately free from any sort of epidemic for so many years. Credit goes to the Municipal Department that is run by the State at a considerable expense which was Rs 13,000 in 1919 is now Rs 36,000 in 1944. Palitana though a place of pilgrimage strikes as a clean town to any visitor. Medical

Relief is also appropriately provided and during His Highness' rule a good progress is made. Special arrangement is made for Cataract and other eye-operations at the Main Hospital and hydrophobia and snake-bite cases also receive latest scientific treatment here. There have been opened dispensaries in the mofussil and medical boxes are kept at 19 centres where villagers can easily get relief, In malarial season patients get treatment at their doors through special arrangement made for the time. Three cottages for T.B. cases have been built and both food and medicine is supplied free to the patients. This department which spent Rs. 12,000 in 1919 is now spending Rs. 30,000 average per year.

And in fact His Highness' personal interest in all departments and day to day administration has been responsible for the progress of Palitana. He regularly attends office and sits for hours at his table. He is accessible to one and all and mixes with people without restraint. His Highness strives to make Palitana happy and great. He is aware of the difficulties that lie in the path. Resources of Palitana are limited; yet without levying any new tax and in spite of permanent yearly taxations to the tune of yearly Rs. 35,000 having been abolished he has been able to help the progress of Palitana. It is due to his wise and economic handling. His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib on a previous occasion had said "We have to come to Palitana to learn lessons in administration and to know how to husband limited resources to the best advantage of people."

Palitana has thus a distinct and honoured place among Kathiawar States. The relations of His Highness with other Ruling Princes have been most cordial. His Highness is held in high esteem by his Brother Princes. This fact was often made evident on previous occasions and on this occasion also it was manifest by the presence of a dozen Ruling Princes and equal number of Yuvaraj and Kumar Sahebs. In his Banquet Speech His Highness Jam Sahib,

referring to the personality and popularity of His Highness, gave a glowing tribute and said, "We delight in coming to Palitana to see ever smiling face of Bahadursinhji who has made his people happy. People of Palitana are indeed fortunate in having him and I am sure Palitana will be famous not only by Shatrunjaya Hill but by the name of Bahadursinhji also."

In a sense Palitana is famous—world famous perhaps. Shatrunjaya Hill which is situated in Palitana Jurisdiction is the most sacred place of pilgrimage for Jains, Jains from all parts of India visit Palitana and Non-Jains, as well as foreigners come for sight-seeing and wonder at the vast expansive architectural beauty of the Town of Temples on the Hill. His Highness is proud to have this most Sacred Hill in his jurisdiction, and has always tried to maintain happy relations with Jains who respect His Highness from their heart and showed their respects by presentation of an address on this occasion.

Palitana thus famous by Shatrunjaya is wished by H. H. Jam Sahib to be famous by the name of Bahadursinhji who in his turn wishes that Palitana be world famous for its progress and said in his speech, "And as for us all, let us make through our words, actions and deeds our beloved Palitana, small as it is, famous throughout the world."

Palitana has to strive for this ideal. It is most natural people should have celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their Bapu who has strived for their welfare and places such an ideal before them. The announcements made on the occasion also gave them much satisfaction. Political prisoners have been set free. Sentences on other prisoners get a reduction of 10 per cent. Farmers get a reduction of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ in revenue of the current year and a sum of one lac in arrears is written off. State Servants get a month's bonus and special donations for the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and the Red Cross and to the Manav Rahat Mandal (Cheap Grain Shops) and Shrewsbury School etc., have been made.

and sentiment of Jains is also satisfied. The last but not the least is the donation of Rs. 50,000 by His Highness from his Privy Purse. It was quite typical of His Highness when he took this opportunity of commemorating the Silver Jubilee of his married life which happily coincided with the Silver Jubilee of his Rule by declaring a donation of Rs. 50,000 for the public welfare. The name of Her Highness Rani Saheb "Sitaba" is always uttered with great reverence by

people; and it was indeed a matter of great joy and agreeable surprise when His Highness in his speech at the end referred to this personal matter in apt words and so nicely commemorated it.

His Highness placed all the resources of his State at the disposal of the King Emperor as soon as the War broke out. He has been contributing Rs. 10,000 annually to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and Palitana State and the Public



THE UVARAJ SAHEB OF PALITANA

have contributed Rs. 3,48,136-0-0 by way of donations and loans till now. His Highness has often said that the ultimate Victory is for the Allies and it is now so near.

People and Brother Princes and friends look forward for His Highness' Golden Jubilee. Jubilees do not come hurriedly. It is a long way off. Yet it is confidently hoped that by the time that occasion comes Palitana would have been world famous by its progress and future achievements and noble deeds of His Highness as well as his people and much water might have certainly flowed in the River Khara under the Owen Bridge of Palitana.

RAJKOT-STATE

RAJKOT is by far the most ancient and one of the important States in Kathiawar and its location in heart of Kathiawar gives it a special importance



H H THE THAKORE SAHEB OF RAJKOT

It is directly connected with the hinter-land by railway which has no break of gauge as far as Ahmedabad and Delhi. It has a long tradition of rulers taking a lively

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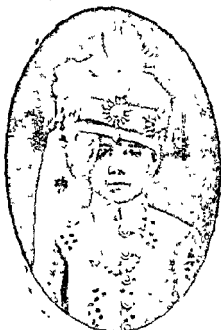
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interest in the economic progress of the masses. That is why, agriculture, industries and commerce have received equal attention at the hands of the Rulers.

The Rajkot State has an area of 281 square miles with a population of 1,03,033 souls. The annual revenue amounts to Rupees 23 lakhs.



THE UVARAJ SAHEB OF RAJKOT

The Ruler Thakore-sahab Shree Pradumnasinhji belongs to the ancient and distinguished Rajput clan of Jadejas. He was educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot and ascended the Gadi in 1940. The Thakoresahab enjoys a hereditary salute of nine guns and is a member of the Chamber of Princes in his own right.

Rajkot City is a well-built town with several imposing buildings and flourishing commerce. It has got a college The Dharmendrasinhji College maintained by the State which teaches right upto the M. A. Standard. It is the head-quarters of the Political Agent to the States of Western India. It has also several charitable institutions, because it is commercially important. The branches of as many as ten banks established in British India, are located here.

It is no wonder, for a small State like this it is rather a difficult thing to maintain and manage this City, with its limited resources, but with a great vision, the rulers made it a point to develop the city economically ; for example, in Rajkot City itself

are located a cotton textile mill, an oil mill, hosiery works, a match factory, soap factories, metal works, trunk factories, flour mills and a number of others industrial concerns giving employment to the abundant labour force. Besides, cottage industries and handicrafts like soap-making oil pressing, hand-spinning have received equal attention at the hands of the Rulers.

The phenomenal rise of the population of the Rajkot City from 25,000 in 1911 to 74,000 in 1941 and which now exceeds over 1,00,000 is an index of the industrial progress of Rajkot during the last 20 years. Within a few miles are located the stone quarries where good lime and black board stone is quarried. The other serves as a good building stone. The State maintains Tram service between Rajkot and Beti River for transport of the quarried material to Rajkot. For the benefit of the public, the States runs Motor Service between Rajkot and Halenda and Rajkot and Choluta.

It may not be out of place here to refer the method of food-grains and cloth distribution evolved by the State. The State has adopted the democratic procedure of entrusting the work of distribution to a non-official agency, which is a bold step indeed. In this way, minimum subsistence has been assured to one and all at fair prices. The State has since issued a brochure on this subject which has been well reviewed by the Indian Press. As the *Eastern Economist* observes, "It is interesting this State has shown remarkable progress in methods of control and distribution."

As the Rajkot City is fast expanding and population steadily increasing water supply is no doubt inadequate. That is why it is hoped to put through the Thorala Irrigation scheme by which Rajkot City can have abundant water supply. Again, as agriculture here as elsewhere in India is a gamble in the monsoon, the State has decided to try lift irrigation methods which have received the appreciation of experts like Sir

William Stampe, irrigation Adviser to the Government of India. When Western India is drying up, and is becoming arid and dry, such nursery schemes will surely furnish a precedent for other Kathiawar State.

It has already been shown that the State has been encouraging several large and small scale industries. The State has his own State-Bank, which was the first to be started in India. It is now proposed to stabilize the *the State Bank of India*. Sir *L. B. Shetty*, N. S. S. P. W. Re-construction Committee, under the Secretaryship of Prof. R. V. Rao, M.A., B.T. Head of the Department of Economics in the Dharmendrasinhji College has made useful recommendations and they are now under the active consideration of His Highness. As regards education, the Rajkot State has been trying its best to extend facilities even to the remotest corners of the State. It may incidentally be pointed out that 12% of its total expenditure goes to education. It comes to Re. 1-12-0 per head. It is proposed to develop the Dharmendrasinhji College which has already become a post-graduate institution attracting students from all over Kutch and Kathiawar. It is hoped to start B.Sc. classes and also diploma courses so that students will have facilities of advanced scientific and technical education.

CONCLUSION

It is not possible in this brief note to refer to the all-round progress which the State has been able to make under its present Ruler His Highness Shree Pradumansinhji, who, ever since he came to the throne, has been trying to keep up the far-sighted traditions of his late lamented father of glorious memory Sir Lakhajiraj—who made Rajkot what it is to-day. Rajkot is also lucky in having a number of business magnates and merchant-princes who have attained pre-eminence in the field of industry and commerce in India. A word may be said about the Government of Rajkot which, at the present moment, is guided by one who

has vision, and the zeal to do something for the masses. The Dewansaheb K. S. Baneshinhji, M.A., (Cantab), who is an economist himself, has been negotiating the State's economic progress with zeal and vigour and has already done much in improving the economic life of the people. Much, of course, remains to be done, but with His Highness pledged to do every thing for the economic prosperity of his subjects, it is hoped that it may be possible to implement some of the schemes of post-war reconstruction as early as possible.

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RAJPIPLA

RAJPIPLA is an ancient State whose history goes back to 77 A D. The Rulers of Rajpipla are Gohep Rajputs of the Solar race and trace their descent from the celebrated Shalvahan who reigned over

Peithan Nagpur in the Deccan about two thousand years ago. On their mother's side they link up with the Parmar Kings who were descendants of the famous King Vikram of Ujjain. The present Ruler, Maharaja Shree Vijay-sinhji, succeeded to the Gadi in 1915. He was educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and with the Imperial Cadet Corps at Dehra Dun. He has travelled extensively in Europe and America where he acquired the breadth of view



H. H. THE MAHARAJA SAHEB OF RAJPIPLA

in public affairs which is so marked a feature of his rule. He is an Hon. Major in the army and is attached to the XVI Light Infantry. By wise introduction of reforms His Highness has gradually modernized the administration of the State. He has devoted special attention to hygiene and education. His interest in the well-being of his subjects is active and warm, evoking universal reciprocity. With the object of associating his people with the administration of public affairs His Highness constituted a Legislative Council in the State.

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REFORMS

He is one of the most enlightened and able rulers and his administration during its 20 years has been marked by the sole purpose of promoting the welfare of his people and the advancement of his State

As in the field of sports so in the field of administration, the Maharaja has played the game and brought distinction to his State by his enlightened and liberal policy. During his administration there has been marked progress in the development of the State and the revenue has increased from 13 lakhs of rupees to 30 lakhs a year without resort to imposition of a single tax

Among the prominent reforms initiated under the personal direction of the Maharaja are the following —

- 1 Making all services pensionable
- 2 Extension of the Survey Settlement System to every village in the State
- 3 Making Primary Education free and grant of liberal scholarships for secondary and higher education
- 4 Liberal endowments for the benefit of widows and the destitute
- 5 Encouragement to trade and industry and introduction of 1027 A L F variety of cotton throughout the State and development of pressing and ginning industries
- 6 Extension of railways
- 7 Introduction and organization of State Forces
- 8 Introduction of the Legislative Council
- 9 Introduction of beneficent measures for relief of agricultural indebtedness

TURF RECORD

Ryppila colours are well known on the turf in India and England. His Highness's successes include

the notable one of winning the Derby in 1924 with "Windsor Lad," which was so popular a victory that His Highness recalls with pleasure the memory of the wonderful ovation he received as he led "Windsor Lad" into the paddock at the famous course. In India the Rajpipla stable has saddled many a winner at Poona and Calcutta. The Rajpipla Plate is considered the Blue Riband of the Indian Turf.

The Maharaja even as a young boy showed great skill as a sportsman having himself ridden a horse to victory and earned reputation as a marksman when not much over 10 years of age. His Highness secured success in England on the turf, at an early stage, his horse Embargo having won the Irish Two Thousand Guineas and the Irish Derby in 1926 and the City and Suburban and the Grand Prix of Belgium in 1927. The same horse has had a certain amount of success at Stud. Since 1927 His Highness had not done much on the English Turf till 1934, when he won the Derby with Windsor Lad and earned the heartiest and personal congratulations of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor on his splendid victory. The same horse had already to his credit in the year the Chester Vase and the Newmarket Stakes, and when he won the great classic, India naturally received the news with joy and rejoicing.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS

Railways and roads have claimed the first attention of the Ruler. Early in his reign he recognized that the history of civilization was the history of roads, and resolved to develop the country by construction of roads for the expeditious transit of produce from one place to another and to the railway station.

Rajpipla town, the capital, is connected with Ankleshwar (in the Broach District) on the B. B. & C. I. Railway, by the Rajpipla State Railway, 40 miles in length. His Highness has constructed another railway from Jhagadia Station on the R. S. Railway, about

20 miles in length opening up the forest area and the uncultivated tracts of land. A branch of this line runs up to the stone quarries of Kadia Dungar. It is proposed to extend this line and ultimately to carry it through to the extreme south-easterly boundary of the State adjoining the British District of Khandesh. A siding of this line some four miles in length has been constructed at a place called Samla Pitha on the river Nurbadah with a small pier to facilitate the transport of stone timber, bamboo and other forest produce to ports on the coast. The State is traversed by a network of metalled and unmetalled fair weather but motorable roads. New roads are being constructed continuously by up-to-date machinery like the caterpillar tractor and grader.

AGRICULTURE

Rajpipla is essentially an agricultural country. The soil is very rich and fertile and produces Cotton Juwari, Bajri, Til and other Grains and Tobacco. Cotton which is the principal crop is grown most extensively. Until about the year 1920, a low and inferior variety called the Ghoghari, was grown with the result that the cultivators had but a very poor return for their labour and outlay. In the year 1919-20 the present Maharaja whose administration bears a deep stamp of enlightenment and progress on modern lines introduced, for the improvement of the lot of his cultivators whom he considers the backbone of his State, legislation prohibiting the sowing of Ghoghari and other inferior varieties of cotton and making it obligatory to sow the long stapled "1027 A.L.F." variety of cotton. With a view to maintaining its purity the State through expert agency, selects the best seed and distributes it to the cultivators for sowing. The results have proved profitable. Whereas in former years Rajpipla cotton fetched prices from 30 to 40 Rupees per Khandi below the level of the Broach Cotton, it now fetches 50 to 80 Rupees over it and is classed with the Navsari Cotton which is the best amongst the Indian grown Cotton. Another

great advantage to the cultivator is that while in the past he had to go 40 to 50 miles and even more away from his home into British and Baroda territory to sell his cotton, he has as a result of this enlightened policy of the State and the success it has achieved, found a ready market at his own door. This cotton is in great demand in the Ahmedabad and Bombay Mills for the manufacture of superior quality of cloth and has always been readily sold even in the worst days of trade depression.

The popularity and success of this measure will be judged from the fact that the area under cotton cultivation, which was somewhere between 60 and 70 thousand acres before the year 1919, has increased by leaps and bounds, and is for the last six or seven years in the vicinity of 1,40,000 acres and has remained at that figure even in these times of general depression, which has affected cotton more than any other commodity. This activity in cotton has had a most wholesome effect on trade and industry generally. For while before the introduction of the long stapled variety of cotton there were only two ginning factories and no cotton press, there now exist ten ginning factories and two cotton presses, all working at a considerable profit to their owners. Encouraged by these good results, the starting of a spinning and weaving mill in the State, is being contemplated and there are offers from several companies to launch such a project.

There are excellent prospects for sugar cultivation on a large scale in a forest area which is shortly to be cleared. The river Karjan which passes close to this land affords good scope for irrigation and a scheme for sugar cultivation and establishment of a Sugar Factory is under consideration.

FORESTS AND MINERALS

The State abounds in very rich forests. The timber is of a superior and strong quality and finds a quick and ready market in the whole of Gujarat.

The country is full of mineral resources. The Cornelian or Agate mines in the State have been known from the time of Ptolemy. Early in the sixteenth century, an Abyssinian merchant, named Bavaghor, established a Cornelian factory at Limbodra in the State. A shrine was raised in his memory on the hill close to the mine and is famous as the Bavaghor Dungar of the Ratanpur Forest where a fair of great importance is held every year.

Rajpipla is very well known in ancient history. Ptolemy's "Mountain of Agates" is no other than Ratanpur of this State and he refers to Sulpan (Sarban, Sarpan) on the Nurbadah and many other places of pilgrimage in Rajpipla. The famous cup of Ptolemy is known to have come from the Agate Mines of Limbodra (near Ratanpur) in this State.

MARBLE

Marble of good quality is to be found in the Gardeshwar Taluka of this State. It is of black-colour and takes very good polish. Marble in white and greyish and greenish tints is also occasionally found. There is excellent building stone in the Kadia Dungar and Bardaria Hills in the Jhagadia Taluka of the State. The stone is of a very light grey colour and is of hard quality. It takes good polish and is suitable for carving. The quarries were not worked for a very long time due to lack of transport facilities, but the difficulty is now overcome by the construction of a light railway, running close to the quarry.

OCHRE AND CLAYS

Red and Yellow Ochre and Fire and Pottery Clays are found in abundance in the Jhagadia Taluka. Cement, Calcium, and Gypsum are found in large quantities in the State and investigations have been well in hand with a view to starting new industries on a scientific basis. Iron Ore in very large quantities is

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found in many places but the difficulty of securing good and sufficient smelting material has been a great drawback to the establishment of this industry on a proper footing

INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

There are great possibilities for the establishment of Hydro-Electric Schemes, but finance is a big problem. Surveys have been made for Hydro-Electric Schemes for agricultural and Electric power purposes on the river Nerbuddah at four different sites where the territories on both the banks belong to the State and also on the river Karjan.

CATTLE BREEDING

The State has recently turned its attention to cattle breeding. Experiments are being conducted for introducing Khilari breed of cattle from West-Khandesh which may stand the work and the climate in the hilly tract. If these meet with success a great problem both for the cultivators and workers in the forests will have been solved.

Among the important State Buildings are the beautiful Vija Palace, where the Maharaja resides, His Highness's charming villa at Hanmantishrar, the High School, the Hospital and a stately Guest House.

His Highness the Maharaja has already completed the Silver Jubilee of his reign. The celebration of the auspicious event had been put off, much against the wishes of his subjects, by His Highness owing to war conditions.

WAR CONTRIBUTIONS

On the outbreak of the War His Highness placed his personal services and resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty.

Contributions —Rs 1 lac annually to His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. Personal investment in War Bonds Rs 1 lac £500 to Lord

SACHIN

THE Nawabs of Sachin are by descent Habshis or Abyssinian Arabs and represent the senior of the two Habshi States in India namely Sachin and Janjira. It is doubtful as to when they first came to India, but they were long known on the Western Coast as the Sidis of Danda—Rajpuri and Janjira. They were also the Admirals of the fleets of the Kings of Ahmednagar and Bijapur while those dynasties lasted, and subsequently of the Mogul Emperors, being appointed to that office by Aurangzeb about 1660 A D. Throughout, they maintained their independence, even against the Marathas, who came into prominence on the decline of the Mogul Empire. Towards the end of the 18th century, Nawab Sidi Abdul Karim Mohommed Yakut Khan I, commonly known as "Biloo Miyan" left Janjira over a family dispute for the throne of Janjira and joined forces with the Peshwas. In 1791 A D an agreement was concluded between Sidi Abdul Karim Mohommed Yakut Khan I, the Peshwas and the Honourable the East India Company represented by Mr (afterwards Sir) Charles Malet. Sidi Abdul Karim Mohommed Yakut Khan I, thus by his own free will and consent, resigned his claim to Janjira, Danda, Rajpuri, Consaw and Medgur with their dependencies in the Country of Cokun, and created the State of Sachin. He was recognised as one of the important Rulers of Gujarat, and the Emperor Shah Alam II, conferred on him the royal insignia of the Mahi Maratib with Haft Hazari.

(2) *A brief History of the State subsequent to the British connection*

The founder of the house of Sachin always maintained friendly relations with the Honourable the East India Company whom he helped in many ways in

protecting their trade and weakening Angarr whose success, if not weakened, would have adversely affected the growing influence of the British Power in the Bombay Presidency His Late Highness the Nawab Sidi Ibrahim Mohommed Yakut Khan III, rendered active personal service during the Great War 1914—1918 in East Africa and his name has been mentioned in despatches He was an Honorary Major in the Indian Army and received a personal salute of 11 guns

(3) *A Geneological History of the Ruling Family*

1 NAWAB SIDI ABDUL KARIM MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN I, 1791—1802

2 NAWAB SIDI IBRAHIM MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN I, 1802—1853

3 NAWAB SIDI ABDUL KARIM MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN II, 1853—1868

4 NAWAB SIDI IBRAHIM MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN II, 1868—1873

5 NAWAB SIDI ABDUL KADER MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN, 1873—1896

6 NAWAB SIDI IBRAHIM MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN III, 1907—1930

7 NAWAB SIDI MOHOMMED HAIDER MOHOMMED YAKUT KHAN the present Ruler

(4) *Personal matters concerning the present Ruler and his immediate descendants*

Nawab Sidi Mohommed Haider Mohommed Yakut Khan was born on 11th September 1909 and succeeded to the Masnad on the 20th November 1930

He married —

1 Nawab Arjumand Bano Sarkar e Aliya Nusrat Zamani Begum on 7th July 1930

2. Nawab Alimama Sultan Nur Mahel Yakut Zamani Begum on 27th July 1937, and

3. Nawab Manzar Sultan -Mumtaz Mahel Mas-sarrat Zamani Begum on 10th May 1938.

The Ruler is internally fully sovereign and is a member of the Chamber of Princes in his own right. He holds a sanad of adoption, enjoys a dynastic salute of nine guns and pays no tribute or any other levy, either to the British Government or any other State. He is entitled to be received by the Viceroy and to be received and visited by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.

(5) *War Services*

Besides the services referred to in para II above, the present Ruler had placed at the disposal of His Imperial Majesty, his personal services as well as all the resources of the State, and donated an aeroplane, two motor cars, besides contributions in cash towards the War Fund.

(6) *Agricultural and Industrial development in the State*

The arcable land is rich in fertility and besides the usual cereals and vegetation, main crops are Jowar, Cotton and Sugar-cane. Irrigation is carried on from tanks and wells. The agriculturists enjoy under the Rayatwari tenure, full occupancy rights.

There is a Cotton Pressing Factory and two Gin-neries, besides grinding mills and a brick factory, Pati weaving (Nivar) of Dumas is famous in Gujarat, and Khadi and Karchob give good occupation to non-agricultural classes. Labour is also drafted from the State for manufacturing gold brocade, known as Surat Kinkhad.

(7) *Recent Constitutional reforms*

Majority of the population being agriculturists, it has not been found necessary to introduce elaborate constitutional machinery for reforms. There is personal

contact between the Ruler and the ruled, and arrangement exists, whereby the people can approach their Ruler personally at any time, for the redress of complaints if they have any, against even the highest officer of the State.

A.: With a view to the greater association of the people in the administration of the State, the Ruler has constituted a Central Panchayat consisting of representatives out of the Village Panchayat which exist in the State since 1921. The functions allotted to the Central Panchayat may be summarized as follows :—

- (a) To record opinions on such matters as may be referred to it.
- (b) To make recommendations with a view to remove legitimate grievances of the people if any.
- (c) To suggest ways and means for further progress and happiness of the people with due regard to local conditions.

B.: Separation of the Judiciary from the executive.

C.: Inauguration of a Manri Mandal analogous to a State Council to consider and to tender advice on important matters of policy or administration referred to it.

VADIA

THE ruling family of Vadia belongs to a Virani branch of Wala Division of the Kathi Clan. The family first appears to have settled in Chital whence they moved to Jatpur and Bilkha. The British con-



H. H THE DURBAR SAHEB OF VADIA

nection with the ruling families of Jctpur began in time of Wala Shree Mulu Naja, the third in descent from Virawala from whom the patronymic Virani has been

derived, who entered into engagements with Colonel Walker on behalf of all the shareholders of Jetpur

2 A brief history of the State subsequent to the British connection

After the settlement, the shareholders of Jetpur have maintained good relations with the British Govern-



THE UVARAJ SAHEB OF VAIDA

ment and have always remained Loyal to the Crown Darbar Shree Bavawala Saheb the father of the present Darbar Shree Suragwala Saheb separated his share from the Jetpur Majmu in the year 1924

was the eldest brother and hence Viranies (his successors) belong to the senior branch of the Wala Kathies D S Mulu Naja the third in descent from Virawala entered into engagements with Colonel Walker on behalf of all the Shareholders of Jetpur

3 *A geneological history of the ruling family with brief notes on outstanding Rulers*

Darbar Shree Virawala was the first of the line Virani of the Wala Kathies He

4 *Personal matters concerning the present Ruler and his immediate descendants*

The present Chief Darbar Shree Suragwala Saheb was born on the 15th March 1904 He ascended the Gadi on the 8th May 1930 after the demise of his father on the 7th May 1930 He is married to Bai Since he ascended the Gadi in 1930 The

Darbar Sahib has two sons and three daughters The Her apparent K S Krashnakumar was born on 23rd April 1931 He is at present studying in



THE DEWAN SAHEB OF VADIA

Std VI of the Chowdhari High School Rajkot in Western India States Agency The second son Kumar Shree Virawala was born on 27th of January 1934 and is also studying in the same High School

Darbar Sahib takes keen interest in the administration of the State He is accessible to all at any time, attends office regularly and tries to redress the grievances of his people as far as possible

5 War Services

Darbar Sahib has put all the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty to be utilized for war purposes He has generously contributed Rs 12,000 towards His Excellency the Viceroy's War purposes fund He has donated Rs 501 towards the War Plane Fund, Western India States Agency War Purposes Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of the State Karbhari Mr K J Dewan

6 Agricultural and Industrial developments in the State

Electric Power House has been installed in Vadia (capital) whereby small industrial concerns take full advantage of it Even the agriculturists in Vadia Proper have installed motor pumps over their wells for irrigation purposes

7 *Recent Constitutional Reforms*

There is a Public Municipality consisting of 1 elected members out of 15 having the President and the Vice President elected. There are 2 seats reserved one for agriculturists and one reserved for a Harijani. There is strict prohibition of liquor within the State limits. Child Marriage Restriction Act, Gambling Act, Agriculturists Relief Act and Usurious Loans Act are also in force in the State and the people have derived much benefit out of them.

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Criminal — Sentences restricted to 7 Years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10,000

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